THE EYE

The definitive guide to the arts - and **Eddie Izzard**



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THE LONG WEEKEND

Uncorking fun with Santa, guys and doils

THE MAGAZINE

Major's message of doom for EU

and Sarah Helm

The European Unioo faced political break-up and eco-nomic disaster if it took the wrong decisions on integration and the single currency, John Major said last night. The implicit threat was that a Conservative government could leave the EU if it decided to go down the wrong road.

His threats were delivered at The Dublin summit after President Jacques Chirac of France suggested his colleagues should throw away their prepared briefs oo the future direction of the union. Mr Major said he had been presented with two false choices: a choice between bo-litical union and a free-trade area. Britain wanted neither.

unless proper fierability was provided for development of the union, with groups of countries being allowed to go their own way on different issues, it would face grave problems. Countries like Britain would not be forced into unattractive and unappealing action. And if the wrong decisions were taken, "it would blow the European Union wide

Some of the suggestions on the table were not acceptable. An unemployment chapter was "uoattractive" and would not create a single job. He would not accept the argument that the union would grind to a halt if enlarged without an extension of qualified majority voting.

As for the single currency, Mr Major said it would be the most far-reaching decisioo". which would "dwarf" earlier ones. But he added: "Insisting on a particular timetable is oot sensible and can end in disaster". That disaster would follow countries going into a single cur-rency without being ready when the only safety-valve will

be higher unemployment". The summit took two further significant steps, when specimen samples of the euro note were issued - with blank spaces for national symbols like the Queen's head - and heads of government agreed the disciplinary torms that will be used to back the single currency.

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, said of the code, which will bring in fines for recalcitrant single-currency members: 'This means that the Euro will be a strong currency."

In spite of advances made on the single currency, the Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, said the election of the Labour leader, Tony Blair, as prime minister would provide Europe with a positive new contribution from Britain. That rare and diplomatically embarrassing intervention in domestic British politics by the EU's Irish presidency gave the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the opportunity to reply that Europe was indeed waiting for Mr Rigin - because he was "naive" Blair - because he was "naive", "inexperienced", and "silly." He was a soft option who would surrender so much that Mr Major,

had so stoutly defended. But Mr. Rifkind conceded. that if the Conservative Party did not soon sort out its differences, it would lose the election. The Prime Minister said that File added later that a Labour-

win was possible.
Mr Spring said the Tory split was forcing Mr Major to protect his back, continually deferring to a significant section of rebels. As for Mr Major, he said:

"We want to see a British gov-ernment that wants to make a positive contribution to the development of the European Union. Certainly, Mr Blair is ex-pressing a confidence, and the Labour Party is very united in relation to positions on the European Union. Regressibly, the Conservative Party is very divided. It does put them in a very invidious position. I can say this as leader of a party which had problems with Europe back in the 1980s - the Irish Labour Party. You're obviously in a far more difficult position if you are worried about anything you may say, or any initiatives you may take, if there is a large segment within your party that has problems with it. And that is the existing situation within the

QUICKLY

McLibel trial record Britain's longest ever trial drew to a close vesterday. Helen Morris and David Steel defended themselves in a libel case brought by the fast-food multinational McDonald's that was in court for 313 days and became a counter-culture cause celchre. Judgmeot is not expected until Easier at the Page 3

Major will soldier on John Major will be able to soldier on until an election date of his own shoosing, he claimed yesterday, "I have no doubt, providing people behave themselves, we can get through to our preferred date," he said in



Conservative Party."

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"There is no doubt that some of the socialist countries wouldprefer to deal with a socialist government in the United Kingdom; that is certainly the case." However, the evidence from Dublin yesterday was that Mr Blair's arrival at No 10 was as-

keenly anticipated by non-socialist countries like Germany and France, which have become impatient with Mr Major's vacillation oo issues like BSE. and his near-total intransigence on key elements of the new treaty being considered by EU leaders. Mr Spring told BBC Radio:

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New York An international diplomatic statemate ended yesterday when Kofi Annan, a 58-year-old Chanaian, was anointed as the factr Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr Annan will formally suc-ched Boutros Boutros Gbali. TV & Radio25,26 Deat month. Mr Boutros-Ghali

Colin Brown Michael Streeter and David McKittrick

Security forces are on alert throughout the United Kingdom amid fears of a new

IRA bombing campaign.

There has been greater vigilance at key sites such as the

City and the Canary Wharf

complex in London and military

installations across the country.

ern Ireland and at Westminster

have been warned they could be

And in recent weeks securi-

ty has also been increased at po-

tential targets in Northern

Ireland, including at Alder-

The threat was underlined

grove Airport, near Belfast.

assassination targets.

Senior politicians in North-

wanted to stay on for a second five-year term, but was forced finally to stand down after pressure from the United ceive bouquets and brickbats in

Banking on change: The euro notes unveiled yesterday, from the 500 down to the 5

when the IRA tried but failed on Wednesday to blow up a se-curity forces vehicle in Belfast

with a Semtex-filled mortar.

This week, in the run-up to

Christmas, the head of Scotland

Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch,

Commander John Grieve.

warned of these "dangerous

months" and urged people to be

of life that we need to be con-

tinually aware of the threat of

terrorism, particularly from the

Tony Blair, on a visit to

Provisional IRA," he said.

Northern Ireland yesterday.

emphasised that he would not

play politics with the peace

process and promised that in of-

"Unfortimately it is a reality

on their guard.

UK braced for IRA attack

fice he would be "straining it is failing. Of course we keep every sinew" to move it forward. in touch with David and his par-

In an old-fashioned diplomatic spat, France, angered at Washington's stance, had been determined to support the incumbent, and to resist the appointment of Mr Annan. Yesterday, however, France de-

UN agrees at last on new leader cided that it would withdraw its veto against him. Mr Annan seems set to re-

The Labour leader stuck to his approach of keeping his par-ty's approach closely aligned to the Government on questions

such as the possibility of a new

IRA ceasefire and of Sinn Fein's

He visited the constituencies

of the three main parties, meet-

ing the Ulster Unionist leader

David Trimble, Scamus Mallon

of the SDLP and Peter Robin-

soo of the Democratic Union-

Mr Blair said he was doing

everything possible to defeat the

Government, but denied he

was courting Mr Trimble. He added: "I will try anything I can

because it is my duty to bring

this government down because

entry into talks.

equal measure from the rest of the world, as has become traditional for holders of the post. The choice of Mr Annan is likely to be made official by the UN's General Assembly on



Kindly Kefi, page 12 Annan: French withdrew veto

Seven notes that bring one currency

Sarah Helm Dublin

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Photograph: PA

ty and will continue to do so."

Other police forces are also showing extra vigilance. A

spokesman for Greater Man-

chester Police, which had to deal

with a devastating IRA bomb in

June, said it was deploying a

"high-profile" police presence to reassure the public.

IRA will put off a renewal of the

ceasefire until days before a gen-

eral election to put the maxi-

mum pressure on Mr Blair and

a possible incoming Labour

They are convinced that

hopes of an extended ceasefire

at Christmas will be dashed by

the IRA. One minister said:

"They have become highly ac-

tive and are clearly planning

government.

Cabinet ministers believe the

#1 29001955 KZ#

John Major has said he wants to "wait and see" before be decides whether to join mone-

tary union.
Yesterday, he (and every-body else) could see just what the shape and size of a single currency will he, though a British decision on membership seemed as far away as ever.

Depicting bridges between oations and gateways to the future, Europe's oew Euro bank-notes were unveiled "at the dawning of a new commoo

Europe". But what is this new common Europe? According to the map on the ootes parts of Finland are missing. Russia is there, but Turkey is not. Britain is elearly part of Europe but looks somewhat mis-shapen. The Shet-lands are missing and Wales will be unhappy with its bulge.

There are oo people in this future Europe; the designs show monuments and bridges but no Europeans.

"The difficulty with people," said Alexander Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute, fore-runner is that people usually belong to a country ... As for the shape of Europe, Mr Lamfalussy admitted: "A few

oot all the countries are entirely covered." But, he added, optimistically, "the geography will be sorted out".

islands have disappeared and

another. The faces of the cotes, in seven denominations from 5 to 500 Euro, depict windows and gateways from the seveo "ages" of

including classical, baroque and modern 20th century. The reverse side shows a bridge design from the same periods.

None of the pictures, however, shows an identificable European monument. All are an amalgam of different European styles.

The name, euro, appears in both the Latin and Greek alphabet. An Austrian artist, Robert Kaliena, woo the contest for the note design after each member state submitted its own offerings.

The most contentious issue. of whether a oational symbol will appear on the notes, re-

mains to be decided. One-fifth of the note's reverse side has been left clear for such an eventuality, but the Queen will oot know if she is to appear until the middle of next

Close by, at Dublin Castle Europe's heads of government at theirt summit meeting were having difficulty sketching out their future map of Europe.

How many countries will be "in" or "out" of the Euro-zooe remained as unclear as ever. But Europe's leaders were able to proclaim a breakthrough in ilding the architecture

single currency zone. Agreement on the stability pact, which will govern eco comic policy after the creacon of the euro,, will be taken as yet another sign of Europe's political will to launch the Euro id

Mr Lamfalussy proclaimed Reaction to the designs was generally favourable. Pretty. as a milestone. Although the Stylish. Very European," were notes will oot start circulating some comments. "Bland." was until 2002, yesterday's date was, until 2002, yesterday's date was, be said, of "major historie significance."

It seemed to have escaped Mr Lamfalussy's notice that the notes were bing launched on European cultural history. Friday 13th.



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E. coli infection spreads to nurse

Steve Boggan Chief Reporter

A nurse has contracted poisoning by E. coli bacteria while treating victims struck down by the epidemic sweeping central Scotland, health officials confirmed last night.

Despite wearing a protective mask, gloves and clothing, the nurse at Falkirk Royal Infirmary fell ill last Tuesday after caring for two patients on a ward. She is now recovering at home, but the fact that she was poisoned simply from contact with the patients demonstrates how infectious E.coli 0157 can be.

Retailer's box no.

We believe this is a cross-infection from contact with pa-tients rather than contact with infected food and it has caused us all some distress," Douglas Harper, the hospital's medical director, said. "It has certainly ncentrated our minds on how

infectious this organism is."

Details of the auxiliary nurse's condition were released within hours of Sir David Carter, Scotland's chief medical officer, telling journalists that the outbreak would soon be over. The total number of those infected is just below 400 and 11 people have died, but for two days running, there had been no new cases reported.

However, before the murse's condition was made public, Sir David said: "We are particularly concerned now about the danger of secondary spread from one individual to another. That has not materialised as a major problem in this outbreak but I think the more days that go by the more confident one will be in saying that this outbreak is not just contained now, it is now over.

think is the word contained. When we get into next week, towards the end of next week. if there are no new cases then I think we could be confident in

saying that it was over.". The nurse, who has not been named, was part of the hospital's team handling the E.coli outbreak. During the past few weeks, the team had treated 18 patients but only two were remaining when she became ill last Tuesday.

"She is fine now, but we are concerned that she became in-

"We practice barrier nursing, which involves wearing a mask, gloves and protective clothing. However, not to be too indelicate, a lot of diarrhoea is involved. Some of the people affected are quite debilitated and caring for them requires a lot of personal hygiene. Some-how, this nurse, who is very experienced; accidentally became exposed and was inadvertently

infected. It is a warning to people at home - good personal hygiene can stop this spreading." Earlier, Michael Forsyth, the

fected at all," Mr Harper said. Secretary of State for Scotland, travelled to Aberdeen with Sir David to meet Professor Hugh Pennington, the man in charge of medical inquiries into the outbreak.

Sir David said: "Mr Forsyth promised unlimited resources to Professor Pennington and his team, saying they had done "detective work which Sherlock Holmes would be proud of . He added: "As far Professor Pennington's lab is concerned, of course we will provide help and support. Whatever he wants he will get."

significant shorts

Helicopter crash claims three pilots

A civilian helicopter which went missing with three English pilots on board, prompting a major search, was yesterday found crashed in mountains in the Irish

Coastguards in Kilkeel said the missing SK76 crashed in Carlingford Mountains, Co Louth. All three pilots were believed to be dead. Two bodies were found in the wreckage, cycwitnesses said. The third pilot was unaccounted for.

Internet child porn sentence

A man was jailed for two years yesterday after he admitted distributing child

pornography on the Internet. Christopher Wells, 27, had more than 1,100 pictures stored in computer systems. Birmingham Crown Court was told. Wells, of Lawling Avenue, Maldon, in Essex, admitted possessing indecent photographs of children and distributing them between March and August this year.

Priest jailed for child abuse comption against fellow councillors. Steve Bosson

A Roman Catholic priest who systematically abused boys and girls over a 14-year period was jailed for twoand-a-half years yesterday at Belfast Crown Court

Father Joseph Steele, originally from the Newlodge area of north Belfast, had admitted a total of 25 charges of indecent assault involving three boys and seven girls between September 1969 and December 1983.

'Giant sewage tank' outrage Environmentalists and

politicians yesterday criticised Home Office plans to moor a prison ship in Portland Harbour alongside a special conservation area. Rriends, of the Earth said ... the five deckship, which : and could held 500 fittenesses that amounted to "a giant sewage tank" Ian Burnell

Judge condems 'perverted and evil teenager'

A "thoroughly perverted and evil" teenager who raped a 93-year-old widow in a churchyard was yesterday ordered to be detained

for 12 years.
Judge Anthony Thorpe
told Steven Barton, 17: "The offence ... is so appalling as to make the blood of every right-thinking person in this country run cold."

Barton, who was 15 at the time of the offence, in September last year, was convicted or raping the widow by a jury at Chichester Crown Court. He had attacked the woman when she visited a plaque in memory of her late husband in St Mary's churchyard, Storrington, West Sussex.

Fraud claims at Hackney

A formal challenge to the accounts of Hackney Council. the troubled London borough hit by Labour group splits and allegations of fraud and racism, was made yesterday to the district auditor, Chris Koelhi.

Simon Matthews, Labour housing spokesman for the area, made allegations of

Four years for cannabis man

A drug grower who catalogued his crop of 845 cannabis plants in a book. beaded "Captain's Log, Stardate January 1995, Planet Earth," was jailed for four years today. Robin Scott, 47, was sentenced at Truro Crown Court

Chauffers halt strike action

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The first ever strike by ministers' chauffeurs scheduled to start on Monday - has been postponed for seven days. The Government has increased its pay offer from 2.3 per cent to just under three per cent.
Negotiations are to resume on Monday. Barrie Clement

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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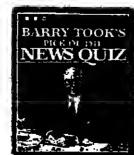


cadets were on parade, 212 of whom were being commissioned into the Army, as were 22 cadets from overseas

Spend Xmas with Auntie

Classic Comedy on Audio Cassette - the ideal stocking filler







BBC

Security bill hits Pregnant terror suspect nursery cash

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

Military salute: Cadets passing out at the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst in Surrey yesterday. At the ceremony, reviewed by the Duchess of Gloucester, 700 officer

The Government has scrapped plans to bring in nursery vouchers in Northern Ireland next year, prompting renewed claims from Labour that the

scheme is collapsing.

Higher spending ou security in the province following the ending of the IRA ceasefire early this year has forced education budget cuts, according to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Withdrawing the vouchers, due to be introduced next September, will save £8.3m a year.
Announcing a £60m cut in education spending. Sir Patrick said: "The peace dividend has, alas, been reversed and this obviously has an adverse effect on the provision of public services in Northern Ireland." An extra £120m was being channelled into law and order and compensation for criminal damage during 1997-98, he said.

The decision puts Northern Ireland out of step with the ers are due to be launched in April Labour seized on the reversal as evidence of a breakdown of the controversial preschool vouchers scheme. Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, said: "The bureaucracy of vouchers is such that even some ministers now realise it makes more sense to

provide real nursery places." The latest blow to the nursery voucher scheme comes just weeks after a Budget announcement of a £56m cut in the money promised on the grounds that pilot schemes showed it was unlikely there would be 100 per cent take-up.

'could lose her baby'

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The terrorism suspect Roisin McAliskey yesterday failed to secure bail while awaiting extradition to Germany after a medical report warned she could lose her unborn child. . Gareth Peirce, her solicitor, told Bow Street magistrates'

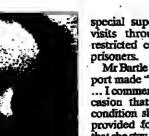
court that Ms McAliskey's medical needs had been ignored, despite the instructions of Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, at her last appearance that she be well care for.

The doctor's report said that she showed signs of "advanced starvation" due to repeated vomiting, had no access to nat-ural light and was in danger of losing her baby, Ms Peirce said. The German government is seeking to extradite Ms McAliskey, the 25-year-old



daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey, in the wake of the June mortar attack on British Army barracks

Holloway women's prison, north London. Her classification would mean she is subject to



in Osnabrück.
Ms McAliskey is being held as a high security prisoner at

visits through screens and restricted contact with other: prisoners.

Mr Bartle said the medical re-

port made "disturbing reading. .. I commented on the last occasion that Ms McAliskey's condition should be properly provided for." But ordering that she stay in jail until her next appearance on 20 December, he said: "I feel that my public duty demands that I do not alter the previous ruling."

A Prison Service spokesman said Ms McAliskey was taken to a London hospital on 5 December and had a scan and full examination by a consultant obstetrician. "He confirmed that she was in good general health, that her 16-week pregnancy was progressing normally and that there was no cause for concern."

Help for child victims

Glenda Cooper

As abuse scandals continue to be exposed in children's homes around the country, we would like you to support our Victims of Abuse appeal to help those who have been made to suffer. Earlier this year, the toll of

years of abuse for more than 100 children in Clwyd was highlighted in this newspaper. The investigation was the launch-pad for a campaign that won government action to tight-

en standards in children's This week we revealed that police are seeking 3,000 children
who may have been part of Ireland, offering counselling

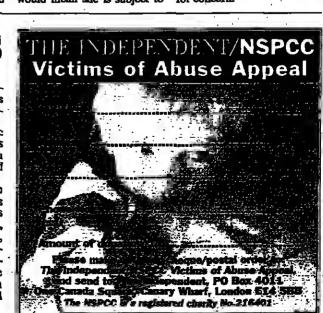
Our Christmas appeal is in support of work by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, including its helpline, giving direct support to children who have been abused, and projects to help pre-

vent future abuse. Countless stories from childreu, in the community as well as in residential care, have never been heard. The NSPCC, Britain's leading charity specialising in child protection and prevention of cruelty, runs more than 120 projects throughout

another scandal, in the North-west and therapy to abused chil-dren as well as carrying out its own investigations into allega-

The charity relies on public donations for 85 per cent of its income and we would like you to contribute between now and Christmas.

Your money will go to help projects such as the NSPCC's freephone helpline which takes on average 1,200 calls a week. the London Investigation Team, which works with police and social services to investigate paedophiles, and the Kaleidoscope project in Newcastle, which treats children who have abused





Britain's longest-ever trial has finally sighed to a close after 313 days. Now all that is awaited after yesterday's closing speches is the judgement from Mr Jus-tice Bell, and that is oot expected until Easter at the ear-

The defendants, the weary and impecunious "McLihel Two", are not optimistic about the judge clearing them of li-belling McDonald's. But Helen Morris and David Steel are talking about mounting an ap-peal if he finds in favour of the

Quick-fried guide to McDonald's

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The McLibel case found its way into the record books by civil trial of all time in tha UK. The previous longest was 103 courtroom days In March 1B72; Arthur Orton was convicted on two counts of perjury for claiming to be Roger Tichborne, brother of Baronet Alfred Tichborne. (Source: Guinness Book of Records, 1996) ■ Linda McCartney, wife of ex-Beatle Paul, has con-

tributed £1,000 to the ■ McDonalds is estimated to: be paying £4000 a day on legal costs. Total costs could

exceed £5m. McDonald's had to pay out \$2.9Million to an 81-year old-woman in Alberquerque, U.S. The lady claimed to have been scalded by coffee. The company's law m found that the coffee was pured at 82 degrees centigrade because

\$3 billion-a year hamburger multinational, and if that fails of taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights. They elaim the trial, which has takeo place without a jury, has been oppressive.

The two, who have defended themselves in the absence of legal aid, made closing speeches which occupied more than six weeks. Richard Rampton QC, counsel for McDonald's, has handed in 550 pages of submissions.

And so the final day stuttered out with a series of points of law from both sides. Mr Justice Bell made no secret of his fatigue. When ex-postman David Morris spoke about something that happened in the years of pre-trial manoeuvrings the

judge said: "This was in the happy days when I knew nothing about this case."

All those months in court have turned neither Ms Steel nor Mr Morris, both unempleyed, into smooth-tongued lawyers. "So, um, there you go..." was how he concluded one

But their fortitude in refus-

ing to apologise and to take on the task of defending themselves at Londoo's Royal Courts of Justice have made them into counter-culture heroes. They have cost McDonald's a fortune and gained huge publicity for their allegations against the burger chain on the Internet and in press reports around the world. They have become mioor celehrities, but it shows oo sign of going to their heads. They remain ordinary, rather se-

rious, old-fashioned anarchists. At lunchtime, as usual, the two defendants and a few supporters went to a student café in the nearby London School of Ecocomics, Meanwhile Mr Ramptoo's team spurned the delights of the oearest Mc-Donald's and took their permanently-hooked lunchtime place's at an Italian restaurant.

Mr Ramptoo, ooe of Britain's top libel lawyers, told The Independent that Ms Steel and Mr Morris' amateur status had slowed down the case considerably. "It proceeds so much more slowly ... it's frustrating in that respect." But his long, long sojourn in Court 35 was no great personal strain. "We're paid to do a job, so it really doesn't mat-

Paid handsomely, in fact: McDonald's legal fees will run to several million pounds and if the judge does award costs and damages against the two de-fendants they have next to nothing to hand over.

McDonald's claims Mr Morris, a 42-year-old single parent, and Ms Steel, aged 31, were leading lights in the publication and distribution of a leaflet which said that eating McDonald's food could cause bowel and breast cancer and heart discase. The leafletialso alleged staff at the thain were exploited, ill-paid and would be dismissed if they tried to join a trade union, and that the production of McDonald's food caused hunger in the Third World and the destruction of rainforests. At the top of the leaflet were the words: "Mc-McDisease, McHunger and McDeath."

The defendants, both unemployed and reliant oo state benefits, deny publishing the leaflet but argue that its contents are true. Three other leafleteers whom McDonald's issued writs against in 1990 apologised, but not the McLibel Two. There have been 130 witnesses crossexamined, and 50 others have submitted statements. "We say the evidence vindicated us on all of the issues raised in the leaflet," said Mr Morris outside the court.



The Mclibel Years: ■ Provisional IRA started and ended its

■Eurostar services started through **Channel Tunnel** ■OJ Simpson's trial started and ended in acquittai ■The Oklahoma bombing killed 168

■Sbteen Primary School children and their teacher killed at Dunblane ■Hugh Grant arrested on indecency charge in Los Angeles

■Rosemary West jailed for **Cronwell Street murders** ■The National Lottery started ■Pop group Take That split up to death outside his school

President Mitterrand died of cancer

The Prince and Princess of Wales

Labour's 'Today' vote angler is civil servant

Christian Wolmar and John Rentoul

Labour yesterday launched an internal investigation into the attempt by party workers to rig nominations for the BBC Today Personality of the Year

It cmerged last night that Jules Hurry, the woman in whose name the fax requesting party workers to nomi-uate Tony Blair for the award was sent, is a civil servant with the Ministry of Agriculture.

It will compound embarrassment in the party over the affair, which wiped the fact that the Torics now have a minority government off the front pages of some newspapers.

it became clear yesterday that the Than was part of a "fish-farming" exencise to try to influence phone in programmes, local newspapers and other media by getting Labour supporters to the or phone. There is a section, affed by two volunteers, at the par-HO with the task of carrying out work, called the "Audience Par-

tion Unit". The official version was that the unit "reactive rather proactive" and urly "helps Labour supporters who ment to write to newspapers or get their ws across in other ways."

Bot a former Labour party worker id that there was a concerted attempt o influence media. He said: "It was influence media. He said: It was bailed lish farming. That was the code iame for doing things that were a said inderhand like putting people into our parties' campaign headquartes. In

He said that the party rain an op-



Tony Blair: Did not make shortlist

eration during the 1987 election campaign to organise people to take part in phone-ins. However, the scheme was dropped after a woman who had harangued a Tory minister became the subject of tabloid investigations.

Another Labour insider said: "The key to these operations was to never write anything down. It should always be done by word of mouth." He said there was no doubt that the Tories did this sort of thing all the time, but "they are a bit cleverer than us in the way they go about it."

Yesterday Tory Central Off refused to deny that it had also masim-

Har exercises.

Asked about allegations by a torner
Welsh Tory, Elwyn Jones, that the Tories had done the same along two years ago when John Major, at the nadir of his popularity, came second

to the late Roy Castle, a spokesman said: "These are allegations by a dis-

The Today award now appears so flawed that the BBC will consider scrapping it. Mr Major, who has been shortlisted again, finished second in the past two years, despite the fact that his party trailed well behind Labour in polls throughout that period. In the Eighties, Margaret Thatcher won the award for woman of the year eight times out of nine.

While the Princess Royal was the other winner, it may have been quiet efforts by Central Office that ensured she saw off what must have been strong competition from the Queen and the Princess of Wales. Mr Blair, who did oot make the

shortlist anyway, said the person in-volved had tried to drum up support through an "excess of zeal". He told the Today programme: "As soon as we learned about it, it was stopped." Labour also attempted to sow confusion about how exactly the exercise

Hurry was responsible for the vote-rigging drive.

He said it was not her but "another, more junior, member of staff" who was behind it. However, he refused to elaborate on the identity of the per-

was carried out. Labour's election

supremo, Peter Mandelson, denied Ms

son responsible. In a damage-limitation, exercise, Tom Sawyer, the general secretary of the party announced the holding of an internal inquiry into the incident hut there are no plans to publish the

It's just not cricket: Botham Jnr sells his soul to rugby

David Llewellyn

The name is the same, but not the game. Liam Botham may be a chip off the old block but he is still his own man. There was no way that he could have emulated the feats of his father, former England Test cricket all-rounder lan Botham, who singlehandedly, and in one bound, won the Ashes when Liam was just four years old, in 1981.

Now, 15 years on, Liam has decided on a professional sporting career -in rugby. He could have carried on playing cricket with Hampshire, but vesterday Liam, a former Rossall School pupil who plays at outside ceotre, signed a three-year contract with Courage First Division chuh West

"While it wasn't an easy decision to make," said Liam, 6ft lin and almost 14 stone. "I've discussed the position, not only with my father, who has never pushed me to follow either route, but also with professional advisers. I've al-

ways had a slight preference for rugby." Mark Ring, West's director of rugby and a former Wales international, said: "It is virtually impossible to combine summer and winter sports at a professional level these days. Liam has had a taste of cricket at a professional level and now has the challenge ahead of sional rugby at a national level.

think he has a great future." Liam appears to be blessed with the same team of script writers as his father. On his debut for Hampshire against Middlesex last season, Botham Junior claimed five wickets for 67 runs, in-Leading article, page 15 | cluding the scalp of former England cap-



tain Mike Gatting. It does not stop there. Last October, when he made his senior debut for West Hartlepool he scored a

try against Watsonians. Rugby certainly looks a likelier bet for the Legeod's son. There is a hard core of realism running through the youngster. He confided recently: "I can never win at cricket having this name. If I do well people will say I should do. If I do badly they would say I was only in the side because of whose son 1 am. But there was a wistfulness when he told the interviewer: "... I wish I could be called plain Liam Bloggs."

Somehow it seems improbable that a Botham could be plain anything. Quite rightly he is being pragmatic and playing to his strengths. And Bloggs or Botham, Liam could well make his





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John Major will be able to soldier on until an election date of his own choosing, he said yes-terday – providing his warring backbenchers "behave".

"I have no doubt, providing people behave themselves, we can get through to our preferred date," he said in Dublin. "I am not going to indicate any particular dates. Certainly, I think we will be able to hang on to our preferred date."

But Tony Blair, Lahour leader, also in Dublin, declared; "The Government majority has gone and we will continue to pile ou the pressure until the Government has gone too. This is a government that has ceased to have any real purpose but its own survival, and the country needs and deserves better."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday was forced to re-arrange an historic visit to Cyprus after the Government lost its Commons majority in the Barnsley East by-election.

The first hilateral visit by a British foreign secretary to the divided Mediterranean island in 30 years was brought forward so that he could return for Monday's crucial vote on European fishing policy.

The Government faces defeat in the vote without the support of the Ulster Unionists, 12 months after the Government was defeated on the same issue. is pending following the death Tory MPs have been given a of Barry Porter. three-line whip to make sure they are in Westminster for

Mr Rifkind's hastily rearranged plans showed the difficulty facing ministers in the

run-up to the general election. The Prime Minister now effectively has to run a minority government after the rejection

a hospital in his constituency. Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, said he had "hent over backwards" to answer Sir John's demands and was not planning further concessions. Mr Dorrell also ap-

pealed to Euro-sceptic Tory MPs to back the Government. Some ministers believe the infighting over Europe is now terminal for the Tory party. "There is no sign of us pulling out of this before the election. I am just waiting to have a go at them when we lose," one pro-European minister said.

The Euro-sceptics remain convinced they can harden policy to rule out entry into a single currency early in the early spring. Ken Clarke will be forced to go along with it," one leading backhench Euro-scep-tic said.

More than 100 Tory MPs are preparing to put a commitment in their election addresses saying they would not vote for a single currency in the next Parliament, flouting current government policy to keep the option open.

Labour pledged to harry the Government out of office at the earliest opportunity after it comfortably held Barnsley East with a majority of 12,181 in spite of a low turn out. John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, chal-lenged Mr Major to call the byelection in the Tory seat of Wirral Sonth, where an election

Barnaky East result: Jeff Ennis (Lab) 1,502 (8,4%), David Willis (LD) 1,502 (8,4%), Miss Jane Ellison (C) 1,299 (7,2%), Ken Capatick (Socialist Labour Party) 949 (5,3%), Count Nikolai Toktop (UK Independence Party) 378 (2,1%), Ms Julie Hyland (Socialist Equality Party) 878 (0,5%); Lab maj 12,181 (88,9%), 0,2% swing Lah to 1,D. Electorate 53,129; turnout 17,908 (33,7%), 1992; Lab maj 24,777 (53,0%); turnout 39,314 (72,7%), Patchett (Lab) 34,346 (77,2%), Procter (C) 5,569



The toast is Labour: Jeff Ennls, by-election victor, breakfasting with his wife Margaret and their children yesterday morning

Echoes of 1979 as Ulster holds key to power

Colin Brown

Ulster MPs could again hring down the Government, ending 18 years of Tory rule as they began, with a vote of no confidence in the Commons.

Oo the night that James Callaghan's Lahour government fell, the confidence vote turned on one man: Frank Maguire, an independent republican from Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

All day speculation had raged about whether Mr Maguire, a cheerful landlord in the border "bandit" country, would turn up to rescue the Prime Minister.

When he arrived at the Commons, there were sighs of relief that he would save Labour from defeat.

- But as 10pm approached and MPs crowded in for the vote; it became clear he had no such in-

Jim Callaghan: History of his overthrow may be repeated

abstain in person". Dennis Skinner, the left-wing Labour MP for Bolsover, remonstrated with Mr Maguire behind the Speaker's chair as the voting took place, tugging him to go into the division lobby with Labour.

But Mr Maguire, a hig man, John Gorst, in protest at classat "11276). And some (12) 3299 (8.6%). MPs that he had somed up to -when it was read out, produced

cheers on both sides. By then, ernment relentlessly through the the Labour government was exhausted. It had suffered more than 30 defeats in its attempts to soldier on after the Lib-Lab pact had brokeo down,

The Prime Minister's parliamentary aide, Roger Stott, now a hackbench Labour MP, said: "It is draining and sapping when you have no majority. You have to make sure everybody is available for the vote: the sick are brought in.

"It was a dreadful situation and it was, predictable that on one night, all the forces would combine to bring us down. We won on the big things, but they

just kept chipping away." Margaret Thatcher's opposition pursued the Labour gov-

Winter of Discontent after the Prime Minister had failed to go for the autumn 1978 election everyone expected.

Two of her higgest troublemakers were backbenchers, Norman Tehbit and the late Nicholas Ridley.

The Labour government fended off defeat by trying to reach alliances with the minor parties. The three Welsh Nationalist MPs were promised a Bill to help miners who had pneumoconiosis. The Ulster Unionists were promised extra seats in Westmioster and a gas link to the mainland.

One minister yesterday recalled being told during a de-bate to offer them an electricity

link to the mainland to avoid a defeat The electricity interconnec-

tor has yet to be huilt. It is being delayed by a decision by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, to refer part of the ronte to an inquiry after criticism of unsightly pylons being

strung across part of Scotland. The coup de grâce was delivered on night of high drama. As symbol of Labour's industrial troubles, the staff at the Commons were on strike, and no hot food or drink was available in the Palace.

The shadow of Ireland again fell over Westminster after Labour's defeat when, in the brief lull before the election campaign, Mrs Thatcher's chief

strategist and Northern Ireland spokesman, Airey Neave, was assassinated by a car bomb at the Commons by the INLA. a hreak-away terror group from the IRA

John Major is expected to commit the Government on Monday to implementing a se-lective cull of beef herds, beginning in Northern Ireland, which may buy more time from the Ulster Unionists.

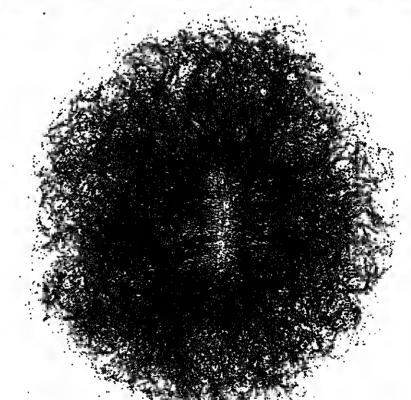
Ministers expect David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to try to bring down the Gov-ernment in March.

Mr Major may therefore try to beat the Ulstermen to the punch, and go to the country on a date of his own choosing at the



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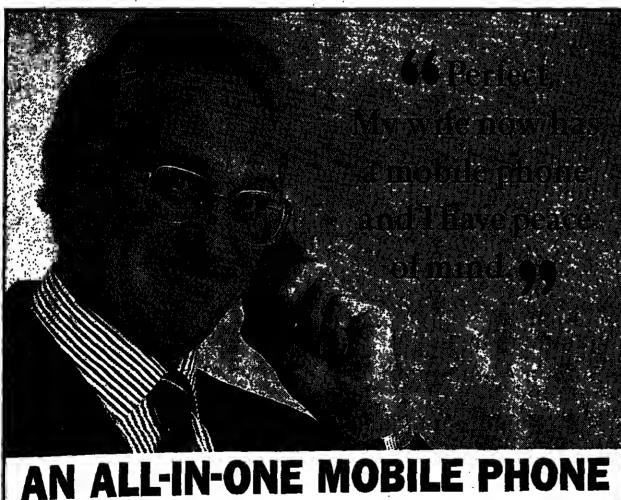


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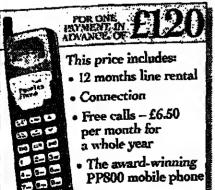
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Rabbits on the roof in Britain's greenest house

A bouse so green that rabbits will live off its turf roof has been given the go-ahead for Kentish Town, north London, despite the opposition of the local planning authority.

Peter Cuming can now start work on a £250,000 housing development that will feed power from solar panels into the national grid and recycle water from baths and washing machines. Two sections of roof will be insulated with soil a metre deep growing meadow grasses and berbs. A tree is also likely.

Rabbits came into the scheme when council officials suggested to Mr Cuming that neighbours might be disturbed by roof-top mowing. "I said 'Well, maybe 1 should have some rabbits' and since then I bave been rather hoist by my own petard," Mr Cuming, an urban planner, said.

Permission for the house and three flats was secured when John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, rejected Camdeo council's objection. It was oot averse to the solar panels or even the rahhits "What we are attempting to

Stephen Goodwin on the new home that even recycles its

development in a compact area and the loss of daylight for neighbouring properties.
But Mr Gummer ood Mr

own water

Cuming, a former building and planning inspector, said homes in a nearby council development were closer together. They have gone for medieval spacing: neighbours can shake hands from their wiodows."

He calculates that the panels will produce the equivalent of about half the electricity used by the four bomes. It will not be used directly but sold to the national grid. Solar water-heating will further reduce energy demand and in the basement there will be a communal recy-

See 150 1249

show is that even in really urban areas you can do the same sort of thing that up to now bas only been done in places like the Welsh hills," Mr Cuming said.

He had expected more co-operation from the council, which has publicly advocated use of solar power and turf roofs. The site, in Talacre Road, is a but objected to the size of the derelict air-raid shelter and former lift factory. Construction is to begin in the New Year and be completed by March 1998.

Mr Cuming is already being showered with advice about the rabbits, including a warning about them being plucked by kestrels marauding from Hampstead Heath. The grass area will be fenced like any other roof gardeo and the rabbits will be able to burrow beoeath the turf. "I will he living in one of the homes and looking after them," the developer said.

As for numbers and the rabbit's recowned reproductive abilities, Mr Cuming is planning for just two of the creatures.
"And they will probably be both male - a couple of limp-wristed rabbits might be best."



Hop to it: Peter Curning with one of this rooftop croppers, supplied to him by Animal Crackers, of Hampstead



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12 1 Main Indiana. Security CA. ONE FOR ALL 4 rends Code! OTHER FORM CALL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY DESCR Solar power gets a plug in 100 schools

Schools will be turned into amount of energy geoerated an experimental scheme to install solar panels in their playgrounds, writes Lucy Ward.

One hundred schools taking part in the government-backed project will be able to geograte free electricity in return for a one third contribution to the start-up costs.

mounted in "fun" shapes oo bicycle sheds or purpose-built structures, to run computer

the panels, calculating the sortium.

miniature power stations under and possibly adjusting controls for maximum efficiency.

Schools and further educatioo colleges are being invited to take part in the scheme by a consortium aiming to promote the use of solar power in the UK. The partners in the Scolar Programme, which include universities, electricity companies They hope to produce and greeo energy research enough power from the panels, groups, hope the experiments groups, hope the experiments will demonstrate the efficiency

of solar energy. Schools are likely to have to suites, with any extra being cootribute around £3,500 to sold to the National Grid. Pupils will also be able to use met by £1m government cash computers to analyse data from and £2.5m from the Scolar con-

(e)

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 13 DECEMBER 1996

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£100,000 or more £50,000 - £99,999 £25,000 - £49,999 £5,000 - £24,999 £50 - £4,999 DEPOSIT 120 DAY ACCOUNT**
(Annual and Monthly Interest)
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£73 DEPOSIT INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT®

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Man jailed for war on women

four-year "war on women" was jailed for life at the Old Bailey

in London yesterday. James Oliver, 25, had ruined the lives of his victims - all professional women - by subject-ing them to nightmarish ordeals, the court was told. Some woke in the early hours to find Oliver, high on crack cocame, in their beds, threatening to kill them unless they met his sexual demands.

"Although these terrible crimes were committed over a considerable period, with

amount to a war on women,"
Judge Gerald Gordon told Oliver. "You subjected them to what can only be described as torture to satisfy your drug-in-

Unemployed Oliver, from Hornsey, north-east London, admitted one charge of rape and four of indecent assault involving women living mainly in the Islington/Camden area of north London between 1991 and

their lives have been changed forever and probably ruined by your behaviour," the judge said.

Adding that he had a duty to protect women, he jailed Oliv-er for life for the rape and for seven years for the assaults. He ordered that the sentences should run concurrently. Oliver's last victim was a 36-

year-old American lawyer who was attacked while staying with The woman described in a fax

"Inevitably your conduct to to the court the effect the assault your victims has had the pro-

and secure but that now she was afraid to be alone, frequently anxious and feared that she might have contracted some

"The shock and rage I felt wondering whether this random attack might take my life are beyond description," she stated.

Oliver had woken her during the night, hinging at her before laying on top of her. He threatened to kill her and was holding a long metal instrument in his hand. After the assault he put a pillow over her head and Oliver attacked his first

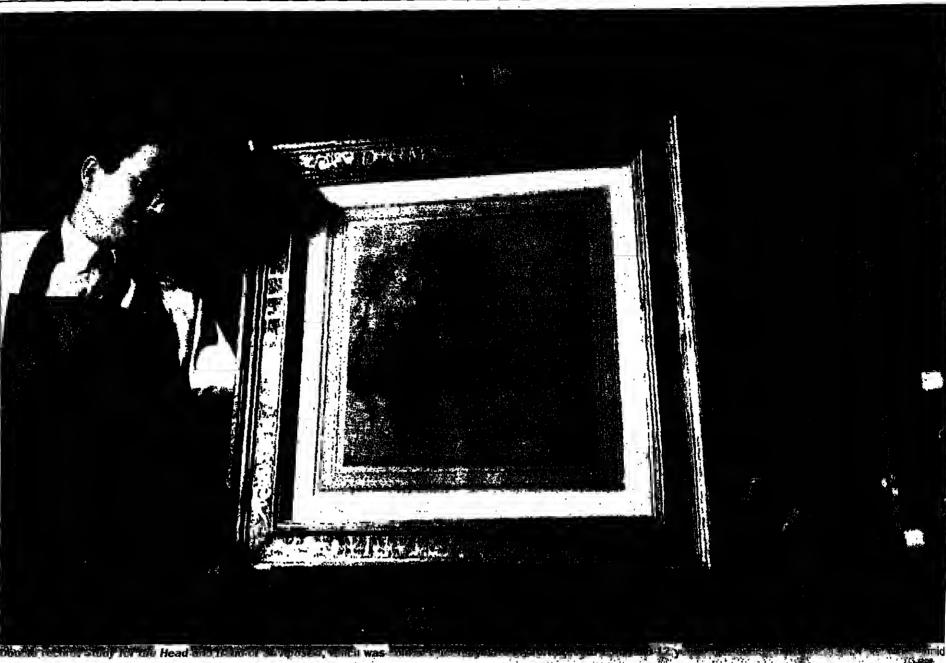
victim - a journalist in her 50s when she was in her bed while her husband and daughter were away and her son was asleep in another room. Wearing a stocking mask, he got in through an open window on a balcony, crouched over her, was polite and promised not to hurt her, then said he had a friend with him who was holding a gun to someone's head in the next

room. He then raped her. Oliver also took property

from his victims. He admitted burglary and was jailed for five years - again to run concurpealer comit kniv face.

rently with the other sentences. David Christie, for the defence, said Oliver was a different man when not on drugs and could not now recollect carry-

ing out the attacks.
"He feels real remorse for the offences and disbelieves he could do such terrible things. He presents as a very mild mannered young man. He would like to say to all his victims he has most extreme remorse for the stress he has caused them."



BRANCH INVESTMENT **ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES**

EFFECTIVE FROM 13 DECEMBER 1996

THESE ACCOUNTS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

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NORTHERN ROCK

Head and hand set world record

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Renaissance to the Raphael : ter drawing ... timate of the likely safe points, sold for a world record priorities in the land the renaissance in the likely safe points.

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Study for the Head and Hand:

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Dealers in combat knives face jail

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A Government-backed Private Members' Bill to jail dealers in combat knives won all-party approval yesterday as it re-ceived an unopposed Commons Second Reading.
Jimmy Wray, the Bill's spoo-

sor, secured the backing of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for the measure, despite initial Government resistance on the ground that "combat" weapons could not be distinguished from household knives.

Under the Bill, it would be an offence, punishable by up to two years in jail, to market a knife in a way which "indicates or sug-gests that it is suitable for com-bat" or will "stimulate or encourage violent behaviour". It will also be an offence to sell, hire or offer for sale a knife suitable for combat. Whether a particular knife is "suitable for combat" will be for the courts.

Mr Wray, who came top of the private members' ballot, criticised the Governmeor's failure to come up with a workable definition of a combat knife sooner: "It is not beyond the wit of reasonable people to tell the difference between a knife designed to cut through bread and one designed to cut through

. If someone could show a lawful purpose for a knife it I should not be an offence, he said, "I believe we can get the balance right."

Mr Wray, MP for Glasgow Govan, conceded that the carrying of an offence weapon in

d rea

We must also tackle supply by banning the sale of weapons that have only the purpose of wounding and killing. The tide of public opinion has turned against these weapons being available."

The MP said the names of some knives - including an "SAS shoulder-holster knife and a Rambo short sword" alone betrayed their purpose. The Bill, a response to the appeal by Frances Lawrence after the stabbing of her late husband, Philip, would also extend police powers to allow an officer of superinteodeot rank or above to order the stopping and searchmg of people or vehicles with-m a specified area for 24 hours,

renewable for 24 hours. David Maclean, the Home Office minister, pledged the Government's support, saying:
"I believe the proposals in this
Bill will make a significant cootribution in stamping out the un-pleasant and unacceptable ways combat knives are marketed."

Alun Michael, his Labour shadow, said: "We are pleased that the Government has finally acted to curb the menace of combat knives."

The Bill has been welcomed as a step towards changing the culture of violence by the Police Superintendents' Association, although it had lobbied the Home Office for an all-out ban. But the Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, said yesterday that the measure did not go far enough.

"The Bill as drafted will not in our view result in a legal ban on the sale of such knives," a spokesman said. "We fear they will simply be sold as 'sporting'



Beauty and the beasts: Actors James Horne, standing, and Andrew Ryan, who play ugly sisters Sharon and Tracey, preparing for a rehearsal of the pantomime Cinderella before their season opens at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on 19 December

Gore back in vogue for anti-fur campaign

Michael Streeter

After the models, the oudity and the glamour, comes the harsh reality.

A graphic anti-fur campaign was launched yesterday which focuses on the reality of the dead animals which are used for fur coats rather than the celebrities who oppose them.

The campaign by Respect for Animals employs posters de-picting the skinned head of a fox emerging, teeth-bared, from a fur coat, together with the cap-tion: "Do you have the face to wear fur?"

Its style is in grim contrast p der unveiled six



Skin deep: The poster designed 'to make fur-wearers think'

weeks ago by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) on which models posed naked under the caption: "Tim your back on fur.

Both are a response to a growing perception that after years of social rejection, fur is fashionable once more. Fashion garments they're wearing and designers Karl Lagerfield, Gue where they come from. That's

ci, Prada and Amanda Wakeley have been flouting it on the cat-walk and French Elle magazine recently declared: "It's okay to wear fur again."

Yesterday's campaign was launched by the singer Cathy Dennis, fashion designer David Fielden and the Labour MP Ken Livingstone.

Its spokesman, Mark Glover, said the poster had been cleared by the Advertising Standards Authority, and justified its graphic nature. "We think it goes far enough but not too far. Obviously it's designed to make far-wearers think about the

cent of people in Britain were against wearing fur, but he warned that the current fashioo for fake fur meant a growing ac-ceptance of the real thing. Many large department stores, including Selfridges,

now have a no-fur policy, refus-ing to stock garmeots featuring any fur. Harrods no longer has a fur department but sells garments with fur-trim collars.

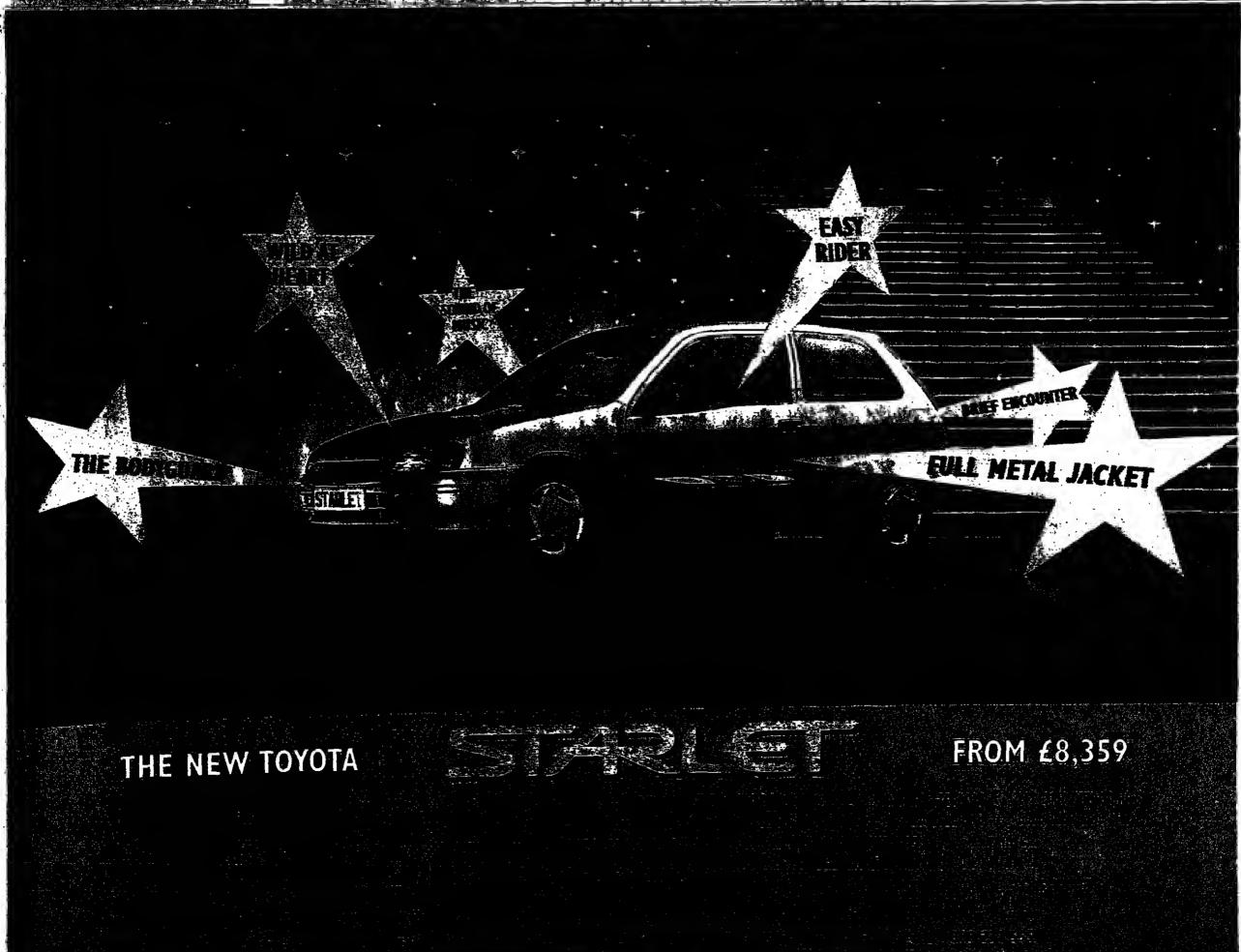
Twelve years ago, fur sales in Britain totalled £80m and by 1989 had dropped to £11m. But recently sales have started to creep up again and the British

our object and we feel this is the best way of achieving this."

Mr Glover added that 95 per E22m in 1994, up from £18m the £22m in 1994, up from £18m the previous year. The Fur Education Council claimed sales were

up 30 per cent last year.
The poster was received badly by the fur-selling trade. At outfitters Swaine Adency Brigg and Herbert Johnson, in central London, retail manager Richard Jaggs-Fowler described the poster as "horrendous" hut said it would not prevent him ordering more than 100 mink, sable and fox-fur hats a year.

"Wearing fur is more natural than bringing oil out of the ground to make a man-made coat," he said.



international

significant shorts

right chance for pardons

President Nelson Mandela vesterday extended the scope of South Africa's postapartheid "truth commission" to include a white rightist attempt to derail democracy and gave offenders five months longer to seek a pardoo. Those guilty of human rights abuses in the fight over apartheid would have until May to apply for amnesty. Mr Mandela set 10 May 1994, the day of his inauguration as the country's first democratically elected president, as the cut-off date for crimes that could qualify for a pardon. Reuters -

France faces iustice reforms

The French justice minister. Jacques Toubon, promised to set up a commission to consider reform of the court system, following remarks by President Jacques Chirac on the independence of the judiciary. But he declined to endorse Mr Chirac's suggestion that the appointment of law officers could cease to be in the gift of the government. Mr Chirac is the first presideot to broach the possibility of severing the liok between certaio groups of law officers dealt with any gold from and the justice ministry. dealt with any gold from coocentration camp vieting Paris - Mary Dejevsky

Cherlin Vege

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAYS

Mandela gives Milosevic offers to let observers check elections

President Slobodan Milosevic offered to lct international observers check the fairness of local elections which the opposition say were rigged. Mr Milosevic. under pressure from the US. protested in a letter to Warren Christopher, Secretary of State, that Serbia had a healthy democracy and accused the opposition Zajedno (Together) coaling of "political terrorism". Reuters — Belgrude

Saudis behead male 'witch'

Saudi Arabia beheaded a Syrian man by the sword for practising witchcraft, the state-run Saudi television reported. An interior ministry statement said a court had decided on the maximum penalty because of what it considered the dangerous effect witchcraft could have on individuals and society. Reuters - Dubai

Nazi gold profit The Swiss National Bank acknowledged that it had

profited from business with gold plundered by Nazi Germany but said it had oot coocentration camp victims.

Dublin summit: Germans bow to French demands on 'stability pact' to police single currency

The euro: your flexible friend.

A hard-fought deal on how to police the future single currency was finally achieved at the European summit in Dublin yesterday, giving important new

Germany, which has been insisting oo the strictest rules for a future "stability pact," had to bow to French demands for a more flexible system. The sta-hility pact will be the rulehook for countries inside the eurozone, setting out a system of fines and penalties to be levied against countries which lettheir economies slip out of line.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, yesterday de-ctared that the rules would mean that the euro would be "a strong currency." Germany woo agreement that countries could be excused fines for exceeding hudget deficit rules only in the case of very deep recession, exceeding 2 per cent negative growth. Mr Waigel rejected suggestions that German's hard line was an attempt to dominate decision-making, saying that it was oot some "Teutonic stability craze.

However, a last minute compromise formula allowed France to claim that it had woo some concessions from Bonn. Fraoce and other member states have demanded less severe penalty rules, arguing that a degree of political control and flexibility should be introduced. France is concerned that the single curreocy will be controlled hankers inside the future European Central Bank.

However, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was determined to maintain a tough oegotiating stance in order to shore up confidence among the German public that the euro will be as strong as the mark. Latest opinion polls show as few as 16 per cent of Germans sup-

port the coming of the euro.

There were already signs yesterday that leaders were moving on to discuss the next cootentious issue: who should

Europe's leaders are determined to win over a sceptical public

enforce the fines. Under the Maastricht Treaty it is envisaged that finance ministers will act as judges, ruling against recalcitrant member states. But pro-posals for a wider form of informal economic government to run the Euro zone - termed a "stability council" - are gath-Negotiations on the final sta-

bility pact deal, which were carried out by EU finance ministers, were long and tense. All member states agreed that countries which allow their public deficits to exceed three per cent of gross domestic product

cedures. Under these procedures each member state would have to submit its budget proposals to the European Comussioo and the European finance ministers would hear Commission recommendations on which countries are running out of line.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-cellor, hashad to fend off accusations that Britain might be subject to the rules even if it remains outside the single cur-rency. Mr Clarke has won assurances that the rules and fines would not affect Britain if does not join the euro.

The dispute which climaxed in Dublin arose over when exceptions could be made, allowing countries to escape fines, because of exceptional circum-stances, such as recession or natural disasters.
In the final deal, Germany

achieved its desired 2 per cent upper limit. However, agreement was reached that countries whose economies hit recession should be allowed to argue an "exceptional circumstances" on a case by case basis. This means that France had its bottom line writteo into the deal. However, in an addendum, countries did agree that they would endeavour not to argue exceptional cir-cumstances in cases of negative growth of up to 0.75 per cent. The decision on whether to let individual countries off the fines procedures would be decided by a qualified majority vote amongst European Union



Grin and bear it: Kenneth Clarke and John Major arrive in Dublin yesterday Photograph: PA

Collins's way with words miffs Mafia stronghold

Andrew Gumbel

The citizens of Reggio Cal-abria are furious, and all because of the Collins English Dictionary. Anyooe thinking of visiting the city, on the tip of the Italian boot, would do well to keep any copies of the of-fending publication out of sight for fear of a lynching. Misin-formal, malicious and the re-ulently racist — such are some of the milder words being used

about HarperCollins these days. The reason? Collins put out a press release listing a few of the new words and phrases they have come across in recent research and will now consider for inclusion in the next edition. One phrase was "Reggio Calabria Syndrome", to define the

Channel 4's Europe Express and referred to research by Francesco Aragona, a professor at the University of Messina who has examined the corpses of mafia victims in the Reggio area and discovered their organs show the sort of stress levels more commonly associated with 70-year-old stroke or heart-attack victims.

Sticking Michabel: "Reggio Calabria Syndrome" on to this phenomenon might seem harmless enough hut does oot take into account the touchiness of Italians when it comes to the judgement, or perceived judgement, of foreigners. This is a piece of pseudo-culture that ... presumes to make judgements that have no relationship to reality," said the city's deputy

Never mind that Reggio is life-threatening case of Aggraregularly cited as the murder vated Collins Syndrome.

The term was picked up from capital of Italy, or that the capital of Italy, or that the week its most prominent anti-Mafia magistrate said his efforts to fight organised crime were on the brink of collapse. Much of the indignation has

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centred on the notion that Collins would put such a phrase in their dictionary on the basis of a mere television pro-gramme. Some of the critics might be surprised to know that Gollins feels the same way. With only citation, we wouldn't dream of putting it in," said the dictionary's managing edi-

tor, Diana Treffry. Which rather takes the veaom out of the affair, though you would not know it from the Italian reaction. Someone had better pass the message on quickly, before the high stress levels down south mutate from Reg-

POSTAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 13 DECEMBER 1996

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£2.500 - £9.999	4.65	3.72	£50,000 - £99,999	3.90	3.12
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		0.40	£10,000 - £24,999	2.65	2.12
POSTAL 120 (Monthly)			£ 2,50 0 - £9,999	2.20	1.76
£25,000 or more	5.60	4.48	£50 - £2,499	0_50	0.40
£10,000 - £24,999	5.18	4.14	POSTAL 7' (Monthly)		
£2,500 - £9,999	4.55	3.64			
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.40	£100,000 or more	3.88	. 3.10
POSTAL 90 (Ampual)	學		£50,000 - £99,999	3.83	3.06
£50,000 or more	4.60	3.68	£25,000 - £49,999	3.40	2.72
£25,000 - £49,999	4.50	3.60	£10,000 - £24,999	1.62	2.10
£10,000 - £24,999	4.05	3.24	£2,500 - £9,999 ·	2:18	1.74
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£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.40			,
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POSTAL 90 (Monthly)			 Can now be operated through 	branches:	
£50,000 or more	4.51	3.61	£50,000 or more	3.85	3.08
£25,000 - £49,999 💉 ·	4.41	3.53	£25,000 - £49,999	3.25	2.60
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£2,500 £9,999	2.96	2.37	£10,000 - £19,999	215	1.72
£50 - £2,499 -	0.50	0.40	£2,000 - £9,999	1.90	1.52
POSTAL 60 (Annual)			£500 - £1,999	1.80	L-14
£100,000 or more	4:10	- 3.28	ESQ - L499	0.50	
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£10,000 - £24,999	3.05	. 2.44	Can now be operated through	branches,	
£2.500 - £9.999	2.65	2.12	£50,000 or more	3.78	3.02
£50 - £2,499	0.50	6.40	£25,000 - £49,999	3.20	2.56
			£20,000 · £24,999	3.06	2.456
POSTAL 60 (Monthly)			£10,000 - £19,999	2.13	1.70
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£10,000 - £24,999	3:01	2.41	GO DIRECT		- 1
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POSTAL 30 (Annual)			£15,000 - £49,999	3.25	2.60
(50,000 or more	4,00	3.20	£20,000 - £24,999	3.10	2.48
£25,000 - £49,999	3.55	2.84	£10,000 - £19,999	2.15	1.72
E10,000 - £24,999	2.70	216	£2,000 - £9,999	1.90	1.52
(2.50g - £9.999	2.25	1.80	£500 - £1,999	L.80	1.44
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Sheep's blood on streets of Baghdad as Saddam's son survives shooting

DE 1 00 1/20

Leon Barkho Reuter

Baghdad - The street where gunmen tried to kill President Saddam Hussein's eldest soo was splattered with sheep's hlood yesterday, and thronged with Iraqis celebratiog that Uday survived the attempt on

The spraying of blood from scores of slaughtered sheep symbolised that a bad omeo had been dispelled. Thousands of people gathered at the site in Baghdad's smart district of al-Mansour, where Uday's car was attacked by gunmeo as he drove through, unguarded, oo Thursday evening. A brass band played the

national anthem, women swayed to the tune and several people showered the crowd with chocolates and other sweets. "The evil intentions of killiog the symbol of Iraq's youth have failed." said one man. "When conspiracies fail, it is ao occasion to celebrate."

Eyewitnesses said at least two gunmen attacked Uday's car, injuring the 32-year-old



Devoted: Iraqi women, carrying a picture of the President, pray for Uday's swift recovery

aloog with several bystanders. Uday was later reported to be in satisfactory cooditioo in Baghdad's Ibn Sina hospital.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper, al-Thawra, published a presidential statement issued hours after the attack. No details were giveo of the ideotity of the attackers, or whether. there were other casualties. In-

vestigations were under way, the "Whatever the motives, perpaper said. sonal or political, it's a warning

to the regime," ooe Iraqi op-positioo figure in Jordan said.

Noce of the Iraqi opposition groups in exile has claimed re-

sponsibility for the attack.

Diplomats said the shooting

may have been a personal attack

oo the Presideot's high-profile

Whoever shot Uday could have heeo one of his many enemies - both within Iraq's inner-circle of power and in the exiled opposition. The shooting exposed a hole in Baghdad's usually watertight security and highlighted the threats that exist to President Saddam's rule. son, who runs his own newspa-

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Uday's influence goes far be-yood his modest official title chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee. Although his younger brother, Qusay, heads Iraq's special security forces Uday has also muscled his way into power, upsetting people within and outside the ruling cir-

per and television channel.

Oppositioo groups say Uday has oow emerged as the informai crown prince of Iraq though diplomats in Baghdae say Saddam used the turmoil around him to reassert his own absolute authority. A wave of arrests in Baghdad over the summer led to reports of a coup attempt, but there are few signs that Saddam's 25-year grip oo power has waned.

Uday, a loose cannon in Saddam's inner clique of close relatives, was briefly out of favour after he beat to death one of his father's favourite servants in November 1988. He latof Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, another of Saddam's half-brothers, only to reject her and seed



Photographs: AFP

Settler growth 'death to peace'

Word

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Palestinian leaders and opposition Israelis last night predicted a oew explosioo of violence after Beojamin Netanyahu's right-wing government restored social and economic incentives for Jews to settle the West Bank that were abolished four years Jago by the late Labour prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

sion, taken yesterday in respoose to Wednesday's Palestinian killing of a mother and soo from the Beit El settlemeot, as a death blow to the ailing peace process. Hamas, which rocked Israel with a series of suicide hombings carry this year, is already threatening to resume its attacks.

Hanan Ashrawi, a minister in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian administration, denounced the Israeli decisioo as an aggressive act. "It's taking us back to the days of confrootation, to the days before the peace process," she told *The Independent*. "It's a very dangerous decision. It not only violates the integrity of the peace process, it removes any

Ephraim Sneh, a candidate to

succeed Shimoo Peres as Labour Party leader, criticised the settlement initiative as "a prescription for new outbursts of violeoce and the collapse of the interim arrangement with the Palestinians". Mr Soch, a former military governor of the West Bank, accused Mr Netanyahu of wanting to turn it into another Bosnia.

Galia Golao, a spokeswoman for the Peace Now movement, They condemned the deci- argued: "Netanyahu intends to expand settlements. That means expropriating Arab land; that means more building; that means creating incentives for people to go and live there. Each one of these steps makes it more diffi-

turning into a grant if they stay put. And it dangles incentives be-fore firms to establish factories.

cult for Arafat to ocgotiate." The decision did not specify how many additional homes isters would sanction. But the intention was clearly to consolidate and expand the Jewish presence in the heartland of the West Bank. It offers tax breaks to settlers and commits the goverument to invest more in social services in the settlements. It provides state loans of 60,000 shekels (£12,000) to homebuyers there, with 50 per cent of that amount

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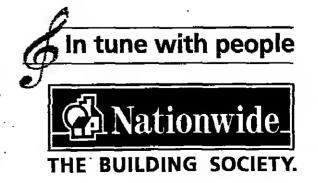
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High drama as UN picks kindly Kofi

David Usborne

Amid high drama in New York, Kofi Annan, the kindly but disciplined 58 year-old from Ghana, was abruptly anomated as the next Secretary-General of the Unit-ed Nations after France yesterday informed colleagues in the Security Council that it would withdraw its veto against him.

The council was expected to complete an official vote selecting Mr Annan later yesterday, he will therefore replace Boutros Boutros-Ghali when his five-year term expires at the end of the month. The choice of Mr Annan will almost certain-ly be rubber-stamped and therefore made official by the UN's General Assembly on

Monday or Tuesday.

Mr Annan, who has been in charge of UN peace-keeping since 1993, quickly emerged as the strong front-runner in a string of informal straw-poll votes held by the Security Council every day since Tuesday. France, however, had been threatening to scupper his chances. On Thursday, the vote count in the council was 14 in favour of Mr Annan and only one against, with France as the lone stand-out.

The French manoeuvring stemmed from its support for a second term for Mr Boutros-Ghali and its anger at the United States for determinedly standing in the Egyptian's way. In November, the US vetoed a formal attempt to reappoint Mr Bourros-Ghali. The French stance against Mr Annan, though shortlived, was in the spirit of a crude tit-for-tat against the US.

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Many diplomats had expected France to maintain its position at least into next the US and also for Britain, which has also been a strong backer of Mr Annan. First whispers of a French change of mind be-gan filtering to New York early yesterday morning, they were sourced to the Eu-ropean Summit in Dublin.

In recent days, Britain has played a piv otal role in helping support to coalesce around Mr Aman. Sir John Weston, Britain's ambassador to the UN, had repeatedly warned that without agreement on Mr Annan, the chance offered to Africa to have one of their own in the post for

another five years would be lost.
Yesterday's change of tack is potentially
embarrassing for France. It was not clear
whether Paris had levered some consolation prize from its allies for acquiescing to Mr Annan's appointment, such as the promise of senior UN positions for French officials.

Currently Under Secretary General for Peace-keeping, Mr Annan commands fierce loyalty among UN officials and is widely liked and respected. This in spite of the fact that under his leadership, the UN's peace-keeping division has suffered

some humiliating setbacks.
France's formal objection to Mr Annan is that as a 30-year UN civil servant he is oot the best figure to bring fresh energy to the UN. His obscurity beyond the UN also means that be does not instantly have the international stature to be able easily to converse with heads of government.



Family matters: Ghinva Bhutto, leader of a faction of the Pakistan People's Party, waves to supporters in Lahore. She is considering standing against her sister-in-law Benazir, the deposed prime minister, in February elections

Photograph: Mohsin Raza/Reuters

Reno stays in

Clinton team

Like Ms Albright, however, he seems assured of speedy confir-mation by the Senate – as does

Mr Daley, a centrist who played a key role in building the hipar-

tisan coalition on Capitol Hill to vote through the Nafta trade

In other moves, Mr Clinton

is retaining the services of the

efficient Robert Rubin as Trea-

sury Secretary, and was expect-

ed to name his aide, Gene Sperling, as head of the National

Economic the body coordinating economic policy. If

those appointments were plain

sailing, however, the re-ap-

pointment of Ms Reno was not. Undoubtedly Mr Clinton - or

at least a vocal array of her critics within the White House -

would have liked to jettison Ms

Reno. To do so, however, would have invited criticism that he

at the Justice Department, just

as Whitewater and other in-

vestigations involving the President and the First Lady were

moving into a decisive phase.

agreement in 1993.

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

President Bill Clinton has tak-

en more steps towards completing his second term Cabinet by choosing New Mexico Con-gressman Bill Richardson as

Washington's new United Na-tions Ambassador, the Demo-

cratic troubleshooter William

Daley as Commerce Secretary,

and by keeping on the contro-versial Janet Reno as Attorney

Of the appointments the most

striking is that of Mr Richard-

son, 49, a Hispanic-American

best known as unofficial US en-voy to Cuba, North Korea, Bur-

ma and Sudan, where this

month he negotiated the release of three American hostages

held by guerrillas in the south.

A dogged oegotiator, he will

the job currently held by the combative and forthright Madeleine Albright, whom Mr

Clinton promoted last week to

Secretary of State.

Chiracs second thoughts on media glasnost

Mary Dejevsky

After President Jacques Chirac's two-hour television grilling on Thursday night, the Elysée could be forgiven for having second thoughts about its elaborate exercise to engage the President in a "real dialogue with the people. For the first time, the high, protective walls guarded by the country's political media establishmeot were breached, a measure of glamost came to French political broadcasting - and the result was not to the President's advantage.

In place of the flag, anthem and a respectful, almost reverential, tone, Mr Chirac was in-troduced with racy film-clips contrasting his election promises with his performance in office and asked to defend himself. Instead of deferentially open questions of traditional presidential broadcasts. Mr Chirac was asked real questions.
the sort the Prench man or woman on the metro" asks but which political interviewers on French televisioo avoid.

Why is the country in such a mess?" Why did you attack technocrats during your presidential campaign, but now surround yourself with them?" What about the political corruption cases, including those of your own Gaullist party?"

When, as with the corruption. question, Mr Chirac veered offin another direction, he was hauled back to address the specific point. The two younger in-terviewers even had the ten-erity to try the odd interruption. To British eyes and cars in

customed to the aggressive questioning of politicians on the Today programme or New night. Mr Chirac had an easieride. No one was trying to cath him out, no one was trying to make him say anything he did not want to say. Even so, the de cision to bring to the interviewing table journalists from outside France's closed political media clique was a bold step, en-gineered largely by Mr Chirac's daughter, Claude! She masterminded his appeal to the youth vote daring the presidential campaign and has since done her utmost to update the way the president is packaged.

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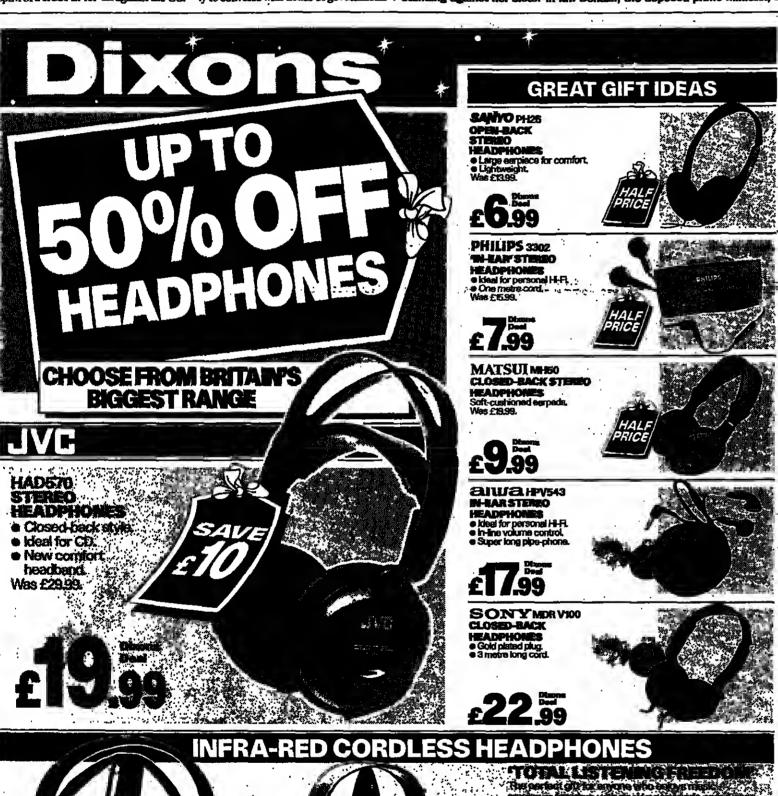
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Bringing the presentation up to date, however, means the President, too, bas to adapt and the evideoce is that there is still some way to go. As some critics of Mr Chirac's performance said yesterday, it was as tator of his own government, as though he had nothing to do. with decisions takeo and could, applaud or deplore the ermment's performance



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Nato's megadeath gets a slimmer look

Christopher Bellamy examines how the alliance is adapting to new realities of the post-Cold War era

As Nato pledged not to move ouclear weapons oo to the territory of oew alliance members in East Europe, the US has been withdrawing tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, and *The Independent* has learnt that only about 200 of its bombs remain as a small "sub-strategic" force.

Instead of detailed plans for the use of these and strategic nuclear weapons in specific scenarios, Nato commanders are now allowed to make plans at short notice based oo existing databases about possible targets. Nato countries operating aircraft able to carry nuclear weapons (the US, Britain and France) will in future only be required to maintain one unit trained and ready for huclear attack. The only US tactical ouclear

weapons in Europe are the slim B-61 nuclear bombs which are carried on F-111s, F-15 and F-16

Following the abandonment of the nuclear-weapons storage area at Lakenheath, Suffolk, The Independent



reported on 28 October that US nuclear weapons had probably all been withdrawn from the UK. But this is now understood to have been premature. Most of the weapons have been withdrawn, but up to 30 may still remain in new weapon-storage vaults situated beneath the hardened shelters where the aircraft which could

still carry them are parked. The idea of weapons-storage vaults was discussed in the early to

mid-1980s and work began in 1987 on the vaults, each of which holds one B-61 US or British WE-177 nuclear

Originally Nato planned to build 437 such vaults at 26 sites but with the end of the Cold War the Senior Level Protection Group, known by the acronym, Slowpig, cut the programme to 208.

The vaults mean that it is much

cheaper to store the weapons, as it

ssary to guard a separate site. They also permit the bombs to be loaded into the aircraft in secret, though this might not always be an advantage, as any oews that aircraft were being armed might be an important deterrent in itself.

However, Nato was concerned that the "igloos" which were formerly used to store nuclear weapons were located several miles from the aircraft, and therefore required "convoys with large security forces travelling through unrestricted areas. The very presence of the convoys attracts attention and they may be vulnerahle to sabotage".

The new system consists of vaults in the floor of the arched, hardened aircraft shelters. They are equipped with sensors and television monitors for security, and control consoles to lift the bombs into the aircraft by remote control.

Details of the weapons-storage vaults have been compiled from opeo sources by the British American Security Information Council -Basic - an independent analysis group. The only US base in Britain with these vaults is RAF Lakenheath, where there are 30. There are also 24 at RAF Marham. The RAF will

dispose of its last free-fall bombs in

1998, and thereafter Britain's "suh-

strategic" deterrent will be provid-

The vaults are equipped with ... consoles to lift the bombs into aircraft by remote control

ed by Trident missiles with single warheads.

Germany still has the largest nuclear-weapons storage capacity -101 vaults. The vaults in Germany, Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands and at the US-operated Aviano base in Italy have all been completed and activity is now concentrated on Nato's southern flank. Coincidentally, this is the area where Nato planners feel that a threat from weapons of mass destruction might

Instead of facing an assault from the east towards Western Europe, the sites for the new vaults in Greece and Turkey are closer to countries such as Iraq and Libya, which are seen as potential launch-sites for nuclear, hiological and chemical weapons.

The number of vaults planned at Greek and Turkish bases is likely to be smaller than planned in 1987. when 11 were planned at Araxos, in Greece and 30 at Iocirlik, near Adana, Turkey, and six cach at Murted and Balikesir.

Black-out chaos adds to Madrid airport woes

Elizabeth Nash

Atteodants were handwriting passeogers' check-in details by indictight this week following a slower black-out that paralysed Barajas airport, Madrid, for five hours, prompting the Transport Minister, Rafael Arias Salgado, to condemn Spain's principal airport, one of the busiest in Europe, as "like the

hlack-outs during a week of Thursday an Iberia plane overmounting chaos that has caused ran the runway and stuck in the spiralling delays in all flights. mud, causing panic when an exit and cancellations in the peak pre-Christmas season. As the weekend approached, the situ-ation worsened. Mr Salgado an-nounced that the oearby military airbase at Torrejoo would be commandeered for

The base, destined for Nato use when Spain becomes a full member next year, is expected

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to start taking the overspill within a fortnight. Passengers will have to check in at Barajas then be bussed aloog 8km of choked motorway. Torrejoo's runway is at right angles to that of Barajas, so flight paths will

Tuesday's black-out was caused by a fire after a workman drove an excavator's drill through a 14,000-volt hightension cable. Back-up generators and other emergency It was the worst of three measures failed to operate. On door stuck. Madrid's only airport is 65

years old, has two congested runways, and work on the third is five years overdue. Regional authorities are slowly waking up to the need for a second airport.

The state airline, Iberia, ficrcely opposes a second air-port, insisting a single coo-octing point is vital for its international network. Anyone who uses Barajas regularly can testify to Iberia's clout. Flights from far cheaper private carri-ers are routinely humped from

their slots by Iberia.

Mr Arias Salgado blames
the previous government for the
chaos, saying the Socialists delayed a report on the environmental consequences of expansion for two years. Josep Borrell, the former Socialist Public Works Minister, criticised Mr Arias Salgado for his "irre-sponsibility and manifest in-ability to confront the problems

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Faulkner had inevitably be-

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mired authors, as indeed he

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tude towards established au-

thority in the government and

A similar revolutionary atti-

American writers.

John Duffey

player Tom Gray left the group to form another, the Seldom

Scene. They were joined by the hanjoist Ben Eldridge and

the dohro wizard Mike

Auldridge, both of whom had

New Shades of Grass, and by

the vocalist/guitarist John Star-

ling. Their name derived from

the fact that none made a liv-

ing solely by performing:

Duffey repaired musical in-

struments. Gray was a cartog-

rapher with the National Geographic Society and Starling

had trained as an army surgeon.

By playing only weekly at the

Red Fox pizza parlour, Bethes-

da, Maryland, they were thus

the DC-based Rehel label, the

Scene played also un the the

atrical connotation of their

name, entitling their first four

alhums Act 1, Act 2, Act 3 and

Act 4. Althnugh their eclectic

approach continued to offend

some hluegrass fans, the Scene's

playing could rarely be faulted

As they began to record for

"seldom seen".

performed with Cliff Waldron's ehrated its 20th anniversary

"Without literature, I could not go on living." José Donoso, the great Chilean novelist, best known in the English-speaking world for his nightmarish evocations of gruesome yet ap-pealing human monsters, El osceno pájaro de la noche (The Obscene Bird of Night, 1971). was a writer in a land better known for its poets - Gabriela Mistral, Pahlo Neruda, both Nobel prizewinners. Yet Don-050's sulphurous prose has strong poetic elements that rary South American author. make his more extreme visions He was born in Santiago de and excoriations of modern civilisation attractive and, for

sensitive souls, more bearable. Donoso was known as the "Fifth Man" in the group of writers forever associated now with the "Latin American Boom" of the Sixties and Seventies - Garcia Marquez, Julin Cortazar, Carlos Fuentes and Vargas Llosa. In 1972, he wrote an essay on the movement, Historia personal del "Boom". He performed the remark-

able balancing trick of remaining on friendly terms with his fellow boomers, of widely differing and often changeable political and literary affilialions, but his favourite among them was-always Cortázar, the Argentinian novelist whose fantasv was, like his own, hlessed with the redeeming grace of po-

etry. His wife, Maria del Pilar ton, where he took a BA degree the Roman Catholic Church Serrano, has written the best account of this boom in "magic realism", Los de entonces ("As They Were Then"), in which her husband appears as a dedicated cortazariano. As a human being, Donoso was by far the most attractive and generous of the group, and it was this inborn spirit of generosity, so rare among writers, that contributes to the greatness of his style, and makes of him the greatest contempo-

Chile, in a land which has strong links with Britain and British culture. His family was middle-class, with artistic and literary tastes. His father, whose nther passions were horses and cards, loved literature, and introduced him at an early age to Russian and French writers, hut also to the English classics, and young Jose's favourite writer was George Eliot, in particular Middlemarch, one of the wittiest novels in the English language. He was educated at an

English-orientated institution, the Grange School in Santiago. where he composed his first stories in English. Then he was an unwilling student at the Instituto Pedagógico at the University of Chile, before moving on to more fruitful studies at Prince-

was evident in the 1967 novel in English Literature. Este domingo ("This Sunday"). Donoso's life was one of wanderings. Before going to the university, he had worked as a limites ("The Place Without university, he had worked as a shepherd in Patagonia. Then he lived for a while in Buenos Aires. He obtained a Doherty

Limits") further intensified his feelings for the harrors of contemporary life, charted with Foundation scholarship to atcool, acid precision and a hittend Princeton, then worked as ter humour, though always a teacher and journalist in made palatable by the extraor-Chile, and won the Chile-Italia dinarily beautiful style of Prize for Journalism for his poetic magical realism that work on the Revista Eroilla in made grotesque transvestite absurdities believable. Santiago in 1960. Meanwhile, he had in 1955 brought out at his own expense a volume of short Donoso used to say that his hooks were not just night-

stories, Veraneo ("Summer Holiday"). But, in 1957, his novel mares, they were his real daily life. The title sends us back Coronación was bought by a to Christopher Marlowe's publisher and became a great Doctor Faust: success, one of the most im-portant of transandean works, Hell hath no limits In one self-place; for where we are which won the Premio Municipal. It was followed by anoth-And where hell is, we must ever er collection of short stories, El charleston, in 1960. Coronación,

which attacked the Chilean rul-This is a theme Donoso was also to find in T.S. Elint's The ing classes, was translated into several languages, and was awarded the William Faulkner Cocktail Party: Hell is oneself: Hell is alone, the other figures in it Foundation Prize in 1962.

Merely projections. There is nothing to escape from
And nothing to escape to. One is always alone... Thus Donoso shows the popu-

lar existentialist view of hell as "other people" as something very superficial and insipid. It was made into a magnificent film by the great Mexican director Arturo Rinstein (1977) which enjoyed international acclaim. Of all Donoso's work, this is my favourite, even greater than his generally accepted greatest masterpiece. The Obscene Bird of Night.

Its portraits of social deca-dence are conceived in a way that reminds one of Francis Bacon's monstrous canvases of deliquescent corpse-like figures oo longer human, and animated only by their distorted clothing or tortured limbs. This astringent vision of our lives has a putrescent glow, and per-forms what is perhaps the most important task of literature - to unsettle and disturb, to shatter complacencies. Casa de campo ("Country House", 1978) is an allegory of the decline and fall of a certain ruling class in Chile, set in the 19th century, a virtuoso distancing from the

and in Starling they had one of

the genre's premier vocalists.

hand, the Seldom Scene's line-

up has remained relatively

stable, and when the band cel-

with a live set, "Scene 20", for

Sugar Hill in 1992, the eight in-

dividuals who had been or were

members all participated. The

closeness and rapport fostered

by their long association is ev-

ident throughout for here, as

uinely enjoyed what they were

In 1995 and fronted by

Moondi Klein, they played the European Bluegrass and Cajun

Festival at Blackburn, a gig hilled as their last. This year

however, saw the release of a

new album, Dream Scenc. on

which Duffey and Eldridge are

joined by the ex-Juhnson Mountain Boy Dudley Con-

nell the bassist Ronnie Simp-

kins and the dohro player Fred

Travers; nne on which spot-on

on each of their alhums, is a group whn clearly and gen-

Unusually for a hluegrass

With the publication of writings like these, it was a foregone conclusion that José Donoso would one day have to go into "voluntary exile". The other kind, "interior exile" or selfsilencing, was not for him. So he became one of the many fortunate writers invited to teach at the University of Iowa's Creative Writing Workshops in the mid-Sixties, after staying for a while at his friend Carlos Fuentes' house in Mexico, waiting for a visa to enter the United States.

He said he had left Chile for only a few months, but those few months became 18 years of not altogether comfortable expatriate life in Spain, tellingly sketched in El jardin de la lada "The Next Door Garden") in 1981, which begins with a call from a Spanish friend asking where he and his wife are planning to spend the summer - a question fraught with bitter irony for those who cannot afford to abandon "the hell of Sitges" for cooler climes.

Donoso's return to Chile is described in the same disabused comic tones in La Desesperan-zu ("Desperation", 1985) – a re-turn to Chile still under dictatorial rule. There he wrote his last big work, Donde van a morir los elefantes ("Where the Elephants Go to Die") in 1994, a huge novel of 600 pages on which he had worked non-stop for 15 hours a day. He had long known he was mortally ill, and in his typically deadpan comic manner would declare: "I have cast-iron ill-health." His Conjecturas sobre la memoria de mi tribu ("Conjectures about the Memnry of my Tribe") was published in Spain in October.

José Donoso worked to the very last. He had completed a new novel, El Mocho, and had started on the script of a Mexican soap opera for television which entertained him in his last days. We might now almost reverse his own saying, and with his death declare: "Literature can not go on living without him."

José Donoso, writer: born Santiago de Chile 5 October 1924; married Maria del Pilar Serrano (one daughter); died Santiago 7



Duffey: 'seldom seen'

harmonies and tasteful picking are, as ever, to the fore. Nineteen ninety-six marks the Seldom Scene's 25th anniversary and John Duffey has heen a constant presence throughout. Whether it can survive without him remains to

Paul Wadey

John Duffey, bluegrass singer and mandolin player, born Washington DC 4 March 1934; died Arlington, Virginia 10 December



Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier

Like many of the Communist personalities who joined the Party before the Second World War, Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier came from a wellestablished bourgeois family, her father Lucien Vogel being the owner of a weekly magazine and a well-known editor and journalist. She herself worked as a journalist and a photographer, joining the party through her membership of the

Communist youth movement:
From 1934, she was one of the founders and leaders of L'Union des Jeimes Filles de France, an organisation devot- fenders of the women who were ed to young women. The Popular Front government of Leon viet army, she continued her huthe Communists, looked fav- survivors and was proud to ourably on some of the women's claims, appointing prisoners who returned to libwomen to junior posts in the government, although it was very far from filling all the aspirations of Marie-Claude Vogel, who by 1937 had married Paul Vaillant-Couturier (just two weeks before his death).

In the spring of 1939 she was forced to go underground when the government made the Commnnist Party illegal because it was not supporting the war, and Marie-Claude took part in the writing and circulating of main-ly pacifist literature. This continued after the armistice into the controversial period when certain members of the Party negooated with the Germans in order to have the right to continue publication of their official papers. From this clan-

destinity to the clandestinity of the Resistance was an easy step. Marie-Claude Vaillant-Conturier joined other women leaders, such as Daniele Casanova, in a cell which organised anti-German propaganda. She was arrested by the French police in February 1942 and taken to the port of Romainville. From there, in January 1943, she was transferred to Auschwitz.

. In Auschwitz, and in Ravensbrook where she was transferred in August 1944, she distinguished herself, becoming one of the leaders and de-· imprisoned. Liberated by the Sohe amongst the last of the excrated France only in June 1945. From this period onwards

she was, as a heroine, and as a leader, one of the most famous members of the Party. She hecame a member of the Central Committee and was regularly re-elected until 1982. She was a Communist deputy in the Consultative Assembly, and was continuously elected as deputy for the Seine, until November 1958, and then 1962-73. She gave evidence at the Nuremberg trials, was vice-president of L'Union de Femmes Françaises and vice-president of the International Democratic Fed-

She was also famous for her two marriages. The first was to Paul Vaillant-Couturier, the cember 1996.

eration of Women.

soo of wealthy Protestant parents, who was remarkably gifted as a poet, journalist r u orator. His experience in the 1914 war had turned him towards pacifism and Communism, and at the time of the Popular Front he became editor of L'Humanité. He was a determined supporter of Stalin and one of the first to publicise the activities of Ho Chi Minh.

Her second husband, Pierre Villon (whose real name was Roger Salomon Ginsburger], the son of a rabbi, was said to have been a Soviet agent from 1929 onwards. He subsequently became the personal assistant to Jacques Duclos. He was Blum, which was supported by manitarian work amongst the prominent in the resistance and at one point jumped through a closed window in order to escape from the Gestapo. He remained faithful to Stalin and to his memory He died in 1980.

Marie-Claude Couturier, loyal to two such committed husbands, was dis-, creet. She remained devoted to the party. When she resigned he party seat in 1973 it was in order to give way to Georges Marchais. She received the Legion d'Honneur and other decorations for her service during the

Douglas Johnson

Marie-Claude Vogel, wartime resistance leader and politician: born Paris 5 November 1912: married 1937 Paul Vaillant Couturier (died 1937), Pierre Villon (died 1980); died 11 1);

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

DANIELL Brigadict Robert Bramston Thesign, OSO, 3rd Royal Horse, Ar-tillers, on 11 December, peacetally in his baloncar Husband of the late Betins varieties reported to the date ex-tensive Financial and service of thanksgiv-ing at \$1 Etherhert's Church, Hessett, near Sury, \$1 Edmands, at \$2 mounts (Tursday, 19 December, Flowers to AE, Thanko, & Son, brooth, Sudolk

Anonnequents for Gazette RIRTHS, MARRAGES & REATHS (Births, Adoptors, Vlarringes, Beuths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memorial that Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14-Fill, releptioned to 9/171-293 2011; Another Bravel in 9/171-293 2012; or faved in 9/171-293 2012, and see charged at \$6.50 a. line (VMT extent), 07/HFR or faced in 017-93 2010, and are enought at \$6.50 a line (VVT extra). OTHER Garette amounteements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submarted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at \$10 a line. V M extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime

Royal College of Art Mr Ian Hay Dayson has been appointed Pro-Provest and Chairm of the Conneil of the Royal College

BUYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Verlage description of Ingel Temperous be acres to the time to the Relation of the Station delice to proceed an Monte Rose. Thanging of the Guard THEORY TO Those is the County Mountail Reg-tractive to the placest class found at Borne Gurch, I am 12 Particles the Res Regions of Walt, research 2, Queen Chand of Burch meltin Places, 11, 2 m. Band pr. 12-16, to 6. William of the TOMP IRROWS Pro-11-6, dock-d

Marriages

For nearly 40 years the distinc- Charlie Waller as lead vocalist

the string hand tradition preva-lent in the rural South in the a vital catalyst to the hurgeon-

is characterised by driving lar television appearances and

and "high lonesome" vocals. brought them to national at-Monroe, as the genre's "fa-tention: their long-players

tive playing and singing of John

Duffey has been one of the glo-

music. His work with the Coun-

try Gentlemen and then the Sel-

dom Scene has helped not only

to shape its development, but

has ensured that it remains as relevant a musical form today

as it was when pioneered by Bill

Monroe back in the Thirties and

Bluegrass developed out of

early years of the century and

rhythms, tight virtuoso playing

ther", saw his music as a pure

form with clearly defined

boundaries, hut found that

many of his followers were to

adopt a more eclectic approach.

A native of Washington DC,

Duffey came to prominence as

a member of the Country Gen-

ilemen. The quarter of Duffey.

Duffey was amongst them.

and flat top guitarist, Jim Cox

as banjo player and Eddie Ad-

cock as mandolinist made their

stage déhut on Independence

Day 1957. They looked beyond

the standard bluegrass reper-

toire, incorporating not only vin-tage hillhilly melodies, but also

straight country, folk-rock and

even jazz numbers into their act.

performed on a twice-weekly

basis at the famous Shamrock

ing DC bluegrass scene. Regu-

a series of acclaimed albums

include four volumes for Folk-

ways - Country Songs Old and

New, Folksones and Bluegrass.

On the Road and Going Back to

the Blue Ridge Mountains, a

pair of fine albums for Saturday

- Bluegrass and Country

Gentlemen; and a live set for

Zap. In 1971 Duffey and the bass

For a decade the Gentlemen

Mr P. C. Perrone and Mrs E. C. Stastum The marriage took place on Friday 15 December, at Woolwich Register Office, London SEf8, between Pierre, son of Mr and Mrs Perrone, of Marseilles, France, and Francine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mallette, of

Birthdays

TODAY: Capton the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, Director, High Gosforth Park. 67: Mr Vivian Bendall MP. 58: Professor Richard Cassily, operatic tenor, 69; General Sir Desmond Fitzputrick, former Deputy Supreme Altica Commander Fo rope, 54; The Right Rev John Grindrod, former Archhistop of Brisbane, 77; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, Sf; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 61; Mr Thomas MeAvoy MP, 53; Sir Malcolm McIntosh. Chief of Defence Procure nent, Ministry of Delence, 51; Mr Charles Morris, former MP and government minister, 70; Mr Alberto Morrocce, painter, 74; Sir John Os-born, former MP, 74; Dame Ruth Raifton, founder of the National Youth Orchestra, 81; Miss Janette South actress, 58: Mr Stan Smith, tennis player, 50; Mr Roy Thomason MP, 52; Sir Simon Towneley, Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 75; Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, lecturer and writer, 82.

TOMORROW: Mr David Abeli, chairman and chief executive, Suter ple, 54: Mr Roy Anderson, chairman emeritus of the Lockheed Corporation, 76; Mr Michael Bogdanov, artistic director. English Shakespeare Company, 58: Professor Smart Checkley, psychiatrist, 50; Mr Dave Clark, drummer and pop group founder, 54; Lord Croham, former

Mr Geoffrey Davies, actor. 55; Sir Graham Dorey, Bailiff of Guernsey, and a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Jersey, 64: Air Marshal Sir John Filzpatrick, 67: Miss Ida Haendel, vinlinist, 72: Mr Gunnar Hagglof, Swedish diplomat, 92; Sir Henry Hardman (ormar senior civil support Hardman, former senior civil servant et: Mr Oliver Heald MP, Under-Secretary for Social Security, 42; Mr Kevin Hughes MP, 44; Mr Joe Jordan, tootballer, 45; General Sit Frank Kitson, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 70; The Rev Dr Una Kroll, Dencon of the Church in Wales, 71; Mr David Mc-Murray. Headmaster, Oundle School, 59; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 89; Miss Edna O'Brien, novelist, 60; Mr Michael Peart, arebassador to Fiji and British High Commissioner to Fi Commissioner to Kiribati. Nauru and Tuvalu, 53; Mr Brian Roper, Vice-Chancellor, University of North London. 47: Mr Austin Savage. Wefsb hockey international, 55; Commandant Anne Spencer, former director, Women's Reval Navat Service, 58; Professor Su John Meurig Thomas, Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, 64; Professor Maurice Wilkins, biophysicist, 80.

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: Nostradamus

and propher, 1503; Tycho Brahe, astronomer and mathematician, 1546; George VI. King, 1895; Paul Eluard | Eugene Grindefl. poel, 1895. Deaths: Thomas Rymer, archaeologist, 1713; George Washington, first US president, 1799; John Claudius Loudon, botanical writer, 1843; Albert, Prince Consort, 1861; Maurice Baring, novelist, playwright and poet, 1945; Stanley, first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, statesman, 1947; Sir Stan-ley Spencer, painter, 1959; Andrei mitrievich Sakharov, scientist. 1989. On this day: Max Planck put forward his quantum theory, 1901:

(Michel de Nostredame) astrologer

Germany put her first U-boat into service, 1906; Roafd Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911; Crete was formally annexed to Greece, 1913: women in Britain voted for the first time at the General Election, 1918; Archbishop Makarios became the first president of the Republic of Cyprus, 1959, Today is the Feast Day of Saints Fingar or Gwinnear and Phiafa, St John of the Cross, St Nicasius of Rheims, St Spiridion and St Venantius Fortunalitis.

TOMORROW: Births: Charles Cowden Clarke, Shakespearean scholar 1787: Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, engineer, 1832; Jean Paul Getty, multi-millionaire, 1892 Deaths: Jan Vermeer (Jan van der Meer van Delft), painter, 1675; Isaak Walton, author of *The Complea Angler*, 1083; Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller, jazz pianist, 1943; Walter Elias Disney, cartoonist and creator of "Micke Mouse", 1966. On this day: the Baltle of Verdon ended, with 700,000 dead f338,000 German, 364,000 Allied soldiers), 1916; the premiere of the film Gone With the ttind took plac, 1939; in Israel, Adolf Eichmant was found guilty of crimes as against the Jewish people, 1961; John Paul Getty III was released by kidnoppers who had cut off his ear, 1973. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Mary di Rosa, Si Nino, Si Paul of Latro

and St Valerian. Lectures

TODAY

National Cattery: James Heard "Christmas (ii): Brueghel, The Adviration of the Kings", 12pm. National Portrail Gallery: David Mellor, "Private Eye Times. Satire Lampoon and Caricuture: the visual arts of Private Eur in context", 3pm.

TOMORROW National Portrait Gallery: Paul Webb, "J.M. Barrie", 5pm.

The poor and wretched show us Christ There are now more than 19 million peo-ple living with HIV in the Third World,

nearly half of them women. State-of-theart drug treatments cost as much as \$10,000 a year; patients in African countries are often without aspirins or simple anti-diarrhoeal preparations to relieve their suffering. Theophista lived in Rakai, Uganda, and

she was very poor. She worked hard in her garden growing bananas, beans and maize, until constant diarrhoca, fevers, and awful internal sores weakened her too much.

She was visited every week by an Irish nurse, Ursula Sharpe. Ursula incised her abscesses and treated her diarrhoea with medicine, but, although she tried many treatments for her sores, nothing worked. For a while, Thenphista's condition improved, but as time went by she began to get worse again, and it became clear that

She was dying.
One day Ursula found Theophista lying in the darkest corner of her room in awful pain with a headache. She did not have any drugs strong enough to kill the headache. "I held her," Ursula recalls, "and screamed inside myself, 'God, why don't you take her? How can you allow somebody to suffer like this?' But there was nothing. God was deaf. The woman

continued to suffer." While the white coats scratch around for a vaccine, a potion, a cure - a medical solution for a medical problem - it has dawned on us that the HIV/Aids pandemic is embroiled in a complex web of issues: poverty and underdevelopment, violence and conflict, and the skewed relationships

between men and women.

faith **e**reason

Brendan Walsh, Director of Communications at Cafod, the Catholic relief agency, writes this week about the forgotten African women who are dying of Aids in their millions.

wrong place in look for a solution to the Aids epidemic. But the churches, too, reached for familiar remedies when the first cases were diagnosed. Some voices electully suggested that Aids was a punishment sent by God, but church leaders - if often embarrassed by the social hinterland of HIV/Aids - called gamely for a compassionate and non-judgemental

In several countries in Africa the churches provide many of the social services and more than half of the health service infrastructure. Many have taken up the challenge with generosity and courage. All over the Third World, they have set up education and prevention programmes with young people, street children, women's groups, sex workers, truck drivers, orphans, parish groups and prisoners.

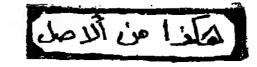
But something more significant has happened than a decently generous and passably efficient response to a major health emergency, in the Church's prayerful responses to HIV/Aids, even in its nf-The pharmaceutical industry is the ficial teaching, there has been an

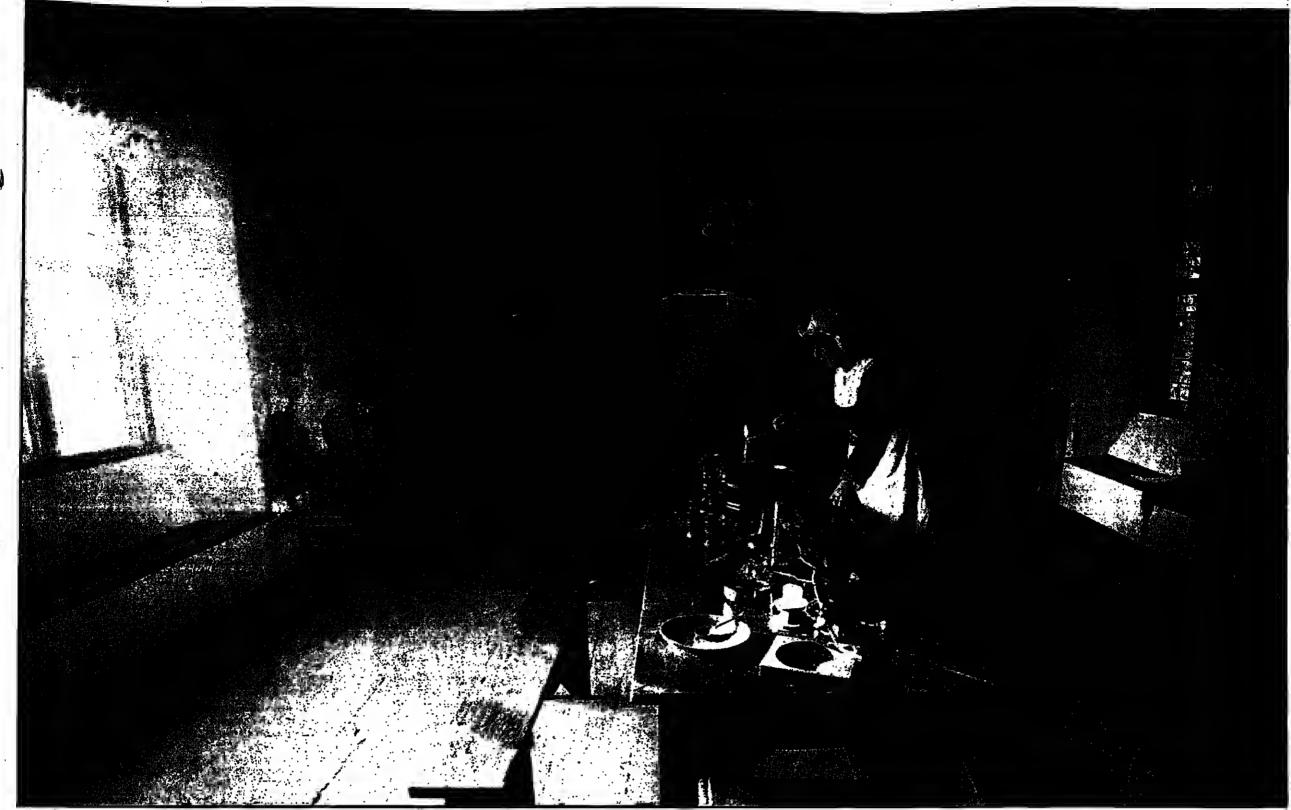
interesting change of language and style. One of the most tiresome traits of the fullowers of Christ is to put people into two categories: those who receive compassion - the sick, the poor, the unclean - and those who enjoy the delicious satisfaction of bestowing it: the healthy, the rightenus the pure. But it is precisely this spirit in judgement and self-satisfaction that Jesus - to the astonishment of his disciples came to destroy.

One or two other pennies have dropped, 100. Globalisation is the fancy new word for the increasing interconnecledness of the world. Intricate cennomic levers and hidden pullcys link what the poor family in Kenya nr Brazil is able to afford for breakfast to the brand of coffee a shopper in Huddersfield setects from a supermarket shelf. Rich and poor are two more categories that cannot be neatly separated. The rapid spread of Aids/HIV amningst the poorest peoples of the world cannot be unpicked from the way we live in the developed world, the decisions we take here. An alert compassion is nudged towards solidarity and a demand for social justice and human rights.

In this time of Aids, many Christians have experienced something of the same shift in understanding described by the lrish missionary sister who nursed Theophista on her death bed:

"When I went to Uganda I had all these ideas about witnessing to the gospel with my life," Ursula Sharpe recalled. "But when I got involved with people who had Aids I found that they were the ones who were challenging me, instead of mc challenging them. They still challenge me. They shake my faith so much that it has been rocked to its roots."





The re-creation of Christmas past. The Great Hall at Sulgrave Manor, Banbury, Oxford is decked out in mock Tudor. Photograph by John Voos. Nikon FM2, 20mm lens, 1/15 sec at F2.8, ASA 800 multi-speed film

the ongweekend

It's surprising how even the most sophisticated of us adhere to the idea of a traditional Christmas. We may shop in Tesco and buy technological gewgaws but the lure of cosy firesides and tables groaning with Dickensian fare, however unreal, is irresistible. Inside we discover that we still decorate trees - whatever the expense - and play games, even if they bear little resemblance to those played in pre-TV days. And children still flock to Santa's grotto. The traditions are preserved – as long as they remain commercially viable.

-Coute

interview

age of probable man base of the con-



John Walsh meets...Imelda Staunton

She plays the sexy high-kicker from the Hot Box club. Off stage she's a Celt with angry blue eyes page 3

Festive games
Chess, bridge
Crossword
Arts notebook

arts & books



The passion, the venom, the grandeur

Robin Cook MP on a literary look at Parliament which fails to match his own vision page 6

travel



Big seas, big winds, a pig and a pot

Harriet O'Brien finds Cornwall in winter inspiring, exhilarating and – best of all – half empty page 9

 Simon Calder
 .9

 Skling
 .10

 Outings
 .13

 Gardening books
 .14

consuming



What the tree says about our lives

The first was made by some lads at an office party in Latvia in 1510. It has been changing ever since page 15

Endowment trap	19
Property	24
TV & radio reviews	25
Weather	. 25

If your boss has given you Christmas day off...



You will find Cava is just made far celebrations, and the more spontaneous the better.

For age thing, you can rely on its natural sparkle and superhymility, for another, it's incredible value for many Cava is the sparkling wine from Spain that is made by the traditional method. It comes from a land of rolling hills and valleys near Barcelona, where there's plenty of muchine and moderate winfall.

The perfect place for sines room

As well as being light, delicate and fragrant, Cava wines have a distinctive smoothness and crisp dryness.

It takes many manths of careful handling to develop these qualities.

No wonder Cava's so keen to get in the glass when you apen it!



ASTELLBIANCH - CONDE DE CARALT - FREIXENET - SEGURA VIUDAS

Chris Maslanka picks his 12 games of Christmas

here is one golden rule for playing games add to any potential stress by choosing the wrong sort of game. Match the players to the game. Here are 12 of the best.

The simple and soothing jigsaw (p🌣) despite its vulnerability to the vacuum cleaner and association with the sick room, is still very much with us. The Agatha Christie Death on the Nile Mystery Jigsaw (Paul Lamond, 750 pieces, age 12adult, £8.99) attempts to marry the jigsaw off with the crime novel. Which clues lead Hercule Poirot to see through the alibis? As with an Agatha Christie proper, I suspect people will find arriving at the solution more satisfying than the solution itself. For the Captain Hastingses of this world the solution is in the booklet but, as befits the mystery, in mirror writing.

The Enid Blyton Sea Adventure Mystery Jigsaw is similar hut for children (Paul Lamond, big pieces, 250 uf them, £6.99). Interestingly, the nine-year-old testers found it frustrating without a picture to guide them.

Best catered for were the younger children with the Elmer Giant Floor Puzzle (Paul Lamond, 22 pieces, aged 2+, £6.99). It was threeyear-old Sarah's first jigsaw and she loved the colourful and differently-patterned elephants. With only a little help she could reconstruct it herself. Keen followers of Barbie's fantastic lifestyle may appreciate one of the Barbie puzzles (Spears, 100-150 pieces, age 6+, £3.99).

Visuo-spatial matching, so important in jigsaws, is the means by which My First Scrabble Words (Spears, 1-4 players, age 3+, £9.99) imparts spelling. It is the child really spelling when she matches colours and shapes? No, but it doesn't matter, as the child is becoming familiar with the process of assembling letters to make words. The use of an alreadydeveloped skill (colour- and shape-matching) as a stepping stone to learning a new skill (spelling) is a sound educational and psychological principle. The puzzles can be solved by trial and error

without adult help; if it don't fit, it ain't right!

The Oxford Game (Falcon, 2-6 players, age 14+, £35.00) tests spelling and the meaning of words à la Call My Bluff. The three levels of difficulty make it possible for children to play with adults, though I doubt whether children would play this on their own. The spelling part was unpopular with my mure dyslexic guests but very popular with those who confused knowing the meaning of rare words with linguistic skill. (pt)

Spears' <u>Don't Panic</u> (2-4 players, age 8+, £13.00) is a family party game with simple rules. The object is to think up items belonging to a given category while a noisy timer counts down from 10 and paralyses your thinking. There are two levels of difficulty: hard for adults (names of liqueurs, famous statues) and easy for children (football teams, green things). Children can play on their own, but there can be some controversy as to whether an item belongs to a category or not, so watch out for arguments. (fe)

Evolutions (Spears, 2-6 players or teams, age 12+, £19.00) is another category game in which players have to identify a word, product, invention, name, superstition, nursery rhyme, custom or clicbé after hearing one paragraph's-worth of clue. Engaging enough and easy to play, it comes in a small box which makes it easy to store, too. (p 🟝)

Not to be confused with The Oxford Game, Oxford Games is a Buckinghamshirebased company producing a wide range of beautifullydesigned classic and historically-based games. Tabula (2 players, £12.95) is an alleged forerunner of backgammon played throughout the Roman empire from the beginning of the 1st century. It was said that the Emperor Claudius was so addicted that he had a tabula board installed in his chariot (presumably chariotcrime was not a problem in ancient Rome). (p\$)

Trivial Pursuit In its many guises is still the king of afterdinner quizzes. The latest two



are Trivial Pursuit Genus Edition (M & B, age 15+, £36) and Trivial Pursuit Annual (1997) Edition (age. 15+,£18). The use of the word "trivial" in the title is a stroke of genius. It means that if you don't know the answers, it doesn't matter. If the sad character who knows all the answers (cos he's played it on his own many times) annoys you, remind him not to confuse facts with knowledge - it's only a gamel

True or False (M & B, 2-6 players, no age guide, £24) is a variant of the trivial pursuittype quizzes. You have a 50:50 chance of getting it right so there's less chance to show off and more chance to revel in the fascinating facts

and check your gullibility, eg Crying was considered manly or tough in the Middle Ages - true or false? Answer: true - eat your heart out Paul . Gascoigne! (p\$)

One of the encouraging aspects of the Nineties has been the rise of the puh quiz. Paul Lamond's Burus and Porter - Pub Trivia Ouiz, TV (2-20 players, age 18+, £6.99) contains a good selection - 20 sets of 20 questions, e.g. Which Avenger shook the coffee beans for Nescafé in 1987? (Gareth Hunt). (p\$)

Of more questionable benefit was the emergence of the national lottery and scratch-card fever. Those who played Lottery last year and who like popular music will

no doubt become addicted to Paul Lamond's Music Scratch-Card Trivia (no age specified!) where the answers are revealed by scratching the card (pt)

Reminiscing, 1960s-1990s (Paul Lamond, 2-4 players, age 12+, £16.99) is an afterdinner game with simple rules and good questions. It gives you the opportunity to ' pretend you're younger than you are or to bond with others through shared memories. The game reminds me of a designer version of the psychological therapies used to consolidate pockets of lucidity in dementia sufferers. So perhaps it also offers you an opportunity to check that none of your marbles is missing. (pa)

If your marbles are indeed absent, Wacky Washer (Spears, 2-4 players, age 4+, £16) may be your thing. The object of this dice game is to shorts) into a washing machine before they get spun out again. The children loved

it. I look forward to an adult version using real clothes and . a spin dryer - a cross between roulette and strip poker. To avoid tears on Christmas morning, note that batteries are not included. (ff Atmosfear - The Soul

Rangers (Spears, 3-6 players, age 12-adult, £18.00) is more sinister than wacky. You'll need a video and TV (which doesn't come with the box) and also the board from the

By contrast, Enchanted Forest (Ravensburger, 2-6 players, age 6+, £9.99) is a quiet, thoughtful game children can play with adults or alone. The artwork is attractive and the instructions easy to follow. You have to travel through the forest finding three treasures. Girls may enjoy this more than boys - it's fairy-tale stuff. (pt)

original Harbingers game, to which this is an add-on. Little

horrors will love it. (ff&)

Adult fantasies are made of sterner stuff, as the awardwinning Power demonstrates (Spears, 2-4 players, age 10+, £27). You'll deserve an award too if you can understand the rules after Christmas pudding. It's a war game requiring cool planning and strategy (so don't drink before playing). The girls I played it with couldn't get into it - they couldn't understand why we weren't sharing our armies so everyone could win. (p. 442)

If you're a bit of a nambypamby like me and you'd rather get on with people than grab their flags, you may enjoy Compatibility (Spears, 3-6 players, age 12+, £20) where you check the overlap between your associations and those of your partner (you know, like table-chair; windscreen-viper). (p@)

If war games, social bonding, shared lunacy or reminiscing leave you cold and you have a compatibility problem, you may wish to retire to a neutral corner and indulge in a solitary pursuit. I recommend the beautifullymade Lagion puzzles, such as Soma Cube (£16). It comprises seven improbable; and aesthetically-appealing pleces which assemble to make a cube and 17 other shapes, rather like a 3-D tangram, or <u>Grand Master</u> (£14) a tile-sliding puzzle. (pt) With any lock, by the time you've mastered these two puzzles, the 12 days of

KEY

p = quiet; f = noisy; ff = disturb the neighbours **☆** = almost irritatingly

Christmas will be long gone.

offensive: = handle with care And = have a Relate counsellor handy.

Chess William Hartston

Games People Play...

No 2. Richard Chivers, 50, barrister (whose name we have had to change, for fear of embarrassing his colleagues in chambers)

Did I tell you what happened to me in Northern Ireland the other day? A client of mine said: "Richard, I understand you enjoy shitting." My entry in Who's Who, I think, which is fictional. "Shitting?" - 'Aye, wi' a gun." Shooting isn't really games is it? Diplomacy, how about

that? It's a bit boring, I suppose. Each person starts off with a country in 1914. Every move is made at thee same time as everyone else, so there's no hanging about waiting to go. To be successful you have to have backing or you're let down, so you make alliances with people. Then you have to judge carefully when to ditch your friend, because once you've done that, you're not

trustworthy. There's a lot less luck than usual; actually I don't think there's any luck at all, it just depends how much support you get. In the end the aim is to conquer the world, so you've got to let your allies down, hut you don't want to do it too soon. Generally Russia seems to win.

I haven't played it since I was at Cambridge. I used to play with my friend Johnny and his then wife. His wife made Bomhay Duck. She didn't realise you have to deep fry it. Have you eaten raw duck? It rather ruins your concentration. I haven't played Diplomacy since.

It's the same as the horse game really. If you're driving along and you see a horse and claim it, you get a point. If you wrongly claim a horse because it's a cow, you lose a point, and whoever spotted your mistake gets a point. But if they're wrong, you can get two points by claiming a mistaken mistake. It doesn't sound much fun, does it?

Diplomacy, from Gibsons Games, costs £17.99. A Deluxe edition is available only in the United States. Bombay Duck is a type of

Pandora Melly

 $M_{i}^{\ast} = M_{i}^{\ast}$

Don't junk it ... use it!

Nasty, messy thing,s children. They spill drinks and knock over grimy bowls of water that they are using to rinse their paint-brushes. Here's a child-proof, spill-proof way

Whatever happened to: conspicuous consumption?



The year: 1981 - Geoffrey Howe deflates (what a horrible prospect) and sets in train the agenda for the Sos, culminating in Nigel Lawson's hudget of 1987. A consumer's paradise; low taxation, high credit.

The effect: Huge shopping malls appear on our streets, justified by \$1m Christmas bonuses from Goldman Sachs, Also Filofaxes, braces, Porsches, champagne, hig advertising budgets, hig dresses (with pads), finding yourself (amidst the pads) and saying things like 'I need to revise certain aspects of my

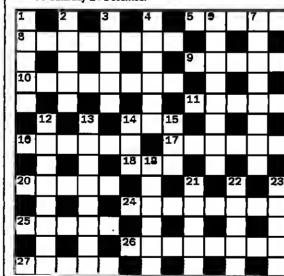
081 in 1.30

What next? The economy husts - big time. Lamont's budget of 1992 recognises that all is not well, with thousands stuck in a negative equity trap, record unemployment and a halance of payments deficit of unimaginable, unmanageable, proportions. . Investment, or even saving becomes the norm. Some even seem embarnissed by money. They close their accounts at the local sun-dried tomato store. In Margaret Thatcher's words a "new liverish left wing Puritanism lakes over, condemning the eighties. Greed is good becomes green is good.

The here and now Britain's dire exit from the ERM becomes a policy to secure maximum economic growth. The phrase "what's wrong with wanling to have a Porsche in the drive and a few bottles of bubbly after work?" returns to common currency, as heard in a city bar last week, and this week Harrods sell 30 hampers at £1,000 each to a single huyer. So are the 80s back? Something might have a hraking effect on the economy and prevent this. Venturing to the shops one might trip over that other aspect of conspicuous consumption: the people lying in their

concise crossword

No.3170 Saturday 14 December



- Defensive ditches (5) Shafts of light (8) Pastoral poem (5)
- 10 Antbear (8) 11 Church members other than ministers
- 16 Work by More (6) 17 Walk like duck (6)
- 18 Chum (3)
- Sporty (8) 25 House adjacent to Aston? (5)
- 20 Group of pupils (5)
- 26 Martinet (8) 27 Grind teeth (5)
- 14 Stretch of salt water
 - 13 Letters (8)
 - 14 Plant juice (3) 15 Boring instrument 19 Shrewd (6) 21 Timepiece (5) 22 Not fresh (5) 23 Yellow pigment (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

Attempt written

Trap (5)

Gusto (5)

Come out (6)

Revealing (4-4)

Male horse (8)

composition? (5)

People of experience (3.5)

ACROSS: 1 Checker, 5 Count (Cheque account), 8 Lilac, 9 Pretend, 10 Chocolate, 12 Run, 13 Tip-off, 14 Brahms, 17 Woe, 18 Many-sided, 20 Assault, 21 Opera, 25 Horse, 24 Dresden, DOWN: 1 Colie, 2 Ell, 3 Tip-off, 4 Repeat, 5 Crete, 6 Uncarthed, 7 Tidings, 11 Oppressor, 15 Towpath, 15 Restore, 16 United, 18 Mauve, 19 Drain, 22 End.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South North **♦**J 10 62 ♥542 **Q754 4**875 West East **♠**A Q85 V107 ♥A96 OK 1062 **♦**A983 **♣Q 10 3 ♣**J962 South **◆**K 73 ∆K O 183

♦QJ ♣AK4 Declarer spotted his own mistake on this deal. Unfortunately he saw it about six tricks too late. There was only one simple point in the play and, when you have got it right, you will bave done better than a distinguished international who, to be fair,

was enjoying a bad day. The auction could not be described as dramatic. South opened One Heart and neither West nor East felt prepared to take action. West led 02 and it all looked straightforward to

Perplexity Mixed doubles:

Arch line optima mists cradle

The six words above hide three connected one-word answers. To find them, you must group the words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. A *Chambers* Dictionary prize will be awarded to the sender of the

that his opponents' silence was due to their holding balanced hands. In that case, there would be four trump tricks, two clubs, and time to establish a seventh winner in spades. The defenders continued

declarer. It seemed very likely

diamonds and South ruffed the third round. There was, of course, the danger that he might run into a spade ruff but there was no alternative to playing on trumps. East took his ace and, as

feared, pushed through a spade for West to take his two winners, after which East trumped the third round. This had the effect of establishing dummy's 🗘 J but

there was a slight hitch: Declarer had ruffed the third round of diamonds with his three! I trust that you took the precaution of trumping with your eight. Then the table can be entered on the third round of trumps with ♥5 and a discard taken on the winning spade. As it was, South ended with only six tricks when he lost a club at trick thirteen.

first correct answer opened on

Perplexity, the Independent, 1

Canada Square, London E14

27 December. Entries to:

30 November answers

HAviNg a Trunk);

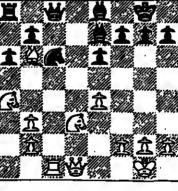
elephant (inELEgant Pet

rhinoceros (hoRn on HIs

beef (BsE dangEr Food).

Winner: Yvonne Abbess

NOse Can hE aphROdiSiac);



It's Black to play in the diagram position. What would you do? The position comes from Topalov Karpov, played in the second round of the current Las Palmas supertournament and provides a good illustration of why the players are finding it so hard to beat each other. Despite having level material and no clear weaknesses, Black is under some pressure. He cannot get his rook into play, and White's knights are poised to invade c5 and molest the Q-side pawns. Black would like to get his hishop to c6, but that involves moving the knight, which cannot hudge until the queen moves and the queen has no good square.

Karpov solved the problem neatly with 1...e5! Now 2.Nxe5 is met by 2...Qe6 3.Nxc6 Bxc6 when the double threat of Qxe4 or Bxa4 leaves White pothing better than 4.Nc3 Bxe4 5.Nxe4 Qxb6 when Black stands slightly better. Since 2.Nac5 Bxc5 3.Nxc5 Nd4 is also perfectly good for Black, Topalov settled for 2.Nc3 Qe6 3.Nd5 Rc8 4.h3 f6 5.Qg5 Qxg4 6.hxg4 Kf7 7.Nxe7 when a draw was agreed.

Stopping inferior positions turning into lost ones is, after all, what true grandmasters do best



1 Take plastic bottle emptied on the previous occasion that messy child spilt its drink. Cut off top just above the half-way mark.



2 Invert severed top into bottom half. Push down firmly to create good seal (glue if you feel particularly insecure). You now have a simple Spill-proof container, which will hold its contents (if not over-filled) even if knocked over entirely.

For added amusement, watch child trying to drink from it without a straw.

Bawn O'Beime-Ranelagh

TURN TO PAGE 25... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON, AND WHEN, TOMORROW READ TODAY'S EYE

Travels with My Camera

Enfant terrible Keith Allen voyages around his father, as they visit his old schools and borstals - Channel 4



Sunderland v Chelsea

Roker Park plays host to the Fulham Rd Italians as Chelsea showcase their title credentials - Sky Sports 1



ment store Santas smoking roll-

ups and cussing the youth of

today. Not a bit of it. This man

with the big brown reindeer

eyes and the rouged-up nose resolutely stays in character. "It

took me many many years to

grow my beard," he says. "I've lost count. I put it in rollers every

night, just to keep it in trim. I put

it in a hairnet when I sleep, just

his thumb and index finger

around his magnificent white

halding my beard the ather

Bending to his cup, he hooks

to look after it."

Doctor Zhivago

Hum along with the world's most famous balalaika tune as Omar Sharif and Julie Christie pursue each other across the backdrop of the Russian Revolution - BBC2



An Eye Full

Well-versed but off-beam

Your comprehensive and critical guide to the week's arts, entertainment and TV. Plus, Eddie Izzard on 'Cows' and '101 Dalmatians' on the big screen



Serena Mackesy

rollers every

But then, nor has the unrelenting commercialism of Christmas, For a shop, kids mean to keep it cash: get the parents to take them there and the rest will fol-

Don't pr

elfridges: cradle of consumerism. All your Christmas needs are here: Calvin Klein socks, bottles of perfume. dinky nibbles, candles, cherubs. aper, party dresses. Here, as in all the stores, we see the true

spend, darling. But don't forget, it's all about the kiddies. Every child has at least one adult in tow, each adult psychotically clinging to pieties about childhood innocence and upping their Christ-mas spend as they make their way to the escalators.

face of Christmas: spend, spend,

Being a ynungest child, I found out about Father Christmas early. I don't think I'd gone beyond three before I started trying to stay awake all night to catch my father rather than some nld geezer from the North Santa's Pole. The moment my

brother tald me the trade truth was certainly a turning-point, but it Secrets sure as sugar wasu't the trauma the anti-Santa revealed: brigade try to claim it is. Actually, I rather liked having got one over on 1 put my having got one over on the grown-ups: I knew something they didn't beard in know I knew. I've never looked back.

in trim' square feet devoted to the free Christmas grotto on the third floor are money well spent. Between mid-October, when it opens, and Christmas Eve, 200,000 wailing rug-rats are hrought to see Santa and collect a handful of chocolate to smear over themselves. At this time of year, queues run at roughly oneand-a-half hours, rising to over two at weekends. Roughly 8,000 people pass through the yuletide portals on a Saturday, lining up in a separate room near the loos and the coke machine, squawking and wailing among the

crowd-control barriers. And essential to the spirit of grown-ups continue to fool realise just how far the fantasy Euston Station. Well, it'll make

top of the queue, a tinkling ring cherished fantasies of departfrom a triangle summons them forward to see the great man. "Let's go and see Santa!" they cry. Their offspring are often too young to understand a word of what they're saying, but still they surge forward, led by assistants who help them out by say-ing "Hello, Father Christmas!" in bright voices as they enter.

Santa sits on a red velvet windowsill surrounded by teddy bears. "Hello," he says, "and what's your name?". "James," says a victim. "Camilla," says the next, "Louise," says another. A gang of eight little girls crowds round at once. He deals with it do this for me. I had Fern Britten all smoothly, making each nne say her name and her present requirements in turn. As an endless stream of other people's children skips and hops past me,

I suddenly realise that my own

childhood photos aren't so bad after all. All children, en masse, look exhausted, pasty, clumsy: the words "foetal alcohol syn-

drome" race through my head

when I catch sight of the sixth,

but then seven, eight and nine

look the same. Santa treats

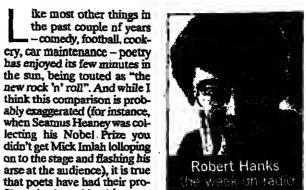
day." Santa, you see, has been cashing in on his celebrity status, making an appearance on Ready Steady Cook Something's going to have to slip, I think. I try different tacks. Where do you live? "I stay here, in a room upstairs; the reindeer have a stable on the roof. It's very nice. I'm very happy here." Does he actually like children? Or did he have to train to

didn't train. I was born into it." I'm starting to panic, Eventually I crack, ask a direct question. What will he be doing once Christmas is over? "Ooh," he says, "we'll take about a week off and then we start all over again. There are so many presents to get ready, you see, and then

handle them? "I love

them. It's my life. I

there's all the wrapping." All human life is catered for them all as Santa should; with this Christmas - there's even a affection and respect. "And have you been good?" he asks. Each seasonal treat for dustbin percussionists. This Wednesday (18 Dec) STOMP, the unfeasibly child stands dumbstruck. "I'm going to ask teddy," he says, and flicks a hidden switch that makes cool junk thythm merchants, flicks a hidden switch that makes are holding open auditions for the Bruin at his shoulder nod anyone with a pair of hig boots his head. He asks the mums and a will to drum their way what they want for Christmas. round Europe next year. Anyone "A new Volkswagen Polo," says keen to find new uses for an oilone, "A nanny," says another.. drum should register by 9.30am Santa and I go for a cup at the Bloomsbury Theatre, Gorthe whole thing is that the of tea, And that's when I don St, London W1, opposite



Now I yield to none, or to not very many, in my admiration for turn up as guests on Mark Radcliffe's show on Radio 1, reciting vers libre and swapping Armitage the poet - witty, erudite, readable, rereadable, tremendous technical facility, eclectic range of reference, etc. -but about Armitage the radio personality I have my doubts. He's at his worst on Radio 4's

Saturday evening poetry slot Stanza (between series at the moment), where he intones his script in a harely inflected drone, sounding as if he's desperate to dissociate himself from the words he's uttering. (Andrew McAllister, who pre-

tated the pants off me but you never doubted his enthusiasm: bring him back.)

Points of Reference (Radio 4. Wednesday) shows Armitage off to considerably better advantage, by using him as a poet rather than a poetic personality. The series explores the disparate associations that the points of the compass have for us, through an assortment of interviews linked by Armitage's verse. This week it was West: we heard people talking about the West of Britain as a holiday playground or as repository of an older, Celtic wisdom (the part of the country never conquered by the Romans); about the west wind and the soft, diffused light of the West, about West as the direction of sunset: about the West as the edge of things, the direction we head in when we die and in which young men are advised to go; and about the West's brief reign as

the centre of wealth and power. At times, this wandered offbeam - towards the end it got wrapped up in discussion of the Western as a genre primarily masculinity - but overall it was can do radio. ceded him in the joh, often irri-

gripping stuff. And Armitage's poetic commentary was witty. erudite, all of that stuff. Possihly his catalogues of geographical features ("Mersey, Irwell, Sefton, Wirral, Warcester, Shropshire, Cheltenham ... Cheddar Gorge, Severn Bore, M5, M4, M54") and deliberate anachronism ("Lewis and Clark playing grunge in a West Coast bar ... Pizarro laundering drug money into an offshore bank account") seemed to place exhaustiveness above rhetorical impact. All the same, it evoked a startling succession of ideas and impressions, and Armitage sounded almost expressive at times.

Unfortunately, the experience was spoilt by catching the last edition of Hearing with Hegley on Radin 4 later the same evening: with John Hegley delivering nonsense about disobedient dogs in an exaggerated Modern Poetic, Armitage's straight version seemed retrospectively ridiculous. It all goes to prove the truism that radio isn't just about words; and being able to concerned with constructions of do words doesn't mean you

The not so cute little critter

his week Mrs Bottomley had a fit of the principles and called for more stringent controls on sex and violence on television. But her initiative to woo the couchpotato electorate with a hit list of televisual ills made some crucial omissions. Some viewers will be feeling particularly unprotected this morning after exposure to In the Wild: Asian Elephants with Goldie Hawn (ITV, Fri).

files raised considerably.

At any rate, a lot more of

them seem to appear on radio

programmes these days. They

witty aperçus with Lard; or they present their own programmes -like Liz Lochhead, whn's just

finished a Radio 4 series on the

awfulness and the shameful

desirability of women's maga-

zines (qualities so self-evident

from the excerpts selected that

you could have done without

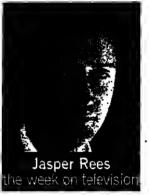
her commentary pounding the

In particular, you get an

message home).

There have been repeated complaints about the dangerous levels of psychobabble gratuitnusly injected by Hollywood stars into the natural history films they present, ITV in particular has failed to heed them. Despite claims by some viewers that a film about tigers with Boh Hoskins left them feeling confused, nauseous and even, in one extreme case, in need of expensive psychotherapeutic readjustment, last night's documentary went out without any kind of health warning. Pressure groups are now calling for a sign advising viewers of the potential risk, to be displayed in the top right hand corner of the screen: the simple logo would depict someone in reflecting sunglasses admiring their own

image in a hand mirror. You can see the point of the celeb-fronted wildlife doc: the seen several years previously. famous, permanently and This wasn't just any old endan-



pointlessly in the spotlight, can do something useful by hudging up and sharing it with an endangered species. Invariably, though, film stars know next to nothing about the animal in which they are hired to be interested. On the basis that some form of expertise is better than none, they feel impelled to imprint a more personal form of specialist knowledge on the film. Thus they are usually to be found training hitech infra-red binoculars on their own navels.

Hawn's contribution to the genre, a themed tour round her famous anthology of wacky faces and kooky giggles, mag-nificently upped the ante. The focus of her mission was to track down an elephant she had

though she forgot to mention ney telling us that she didn't know why she loved Indian elephants. When she finally found their families," she explained, "which is so important to me ... And they hold up their sick until they can't any more. I did that with my mother." Despicably, she loved them because

they reminded her of herself. Thank God for the conventional wildlife doc. It may bring its own cargo of clichés but at least it works hard to lay on a visual entertainment. Deceptive editing techniques, the tropical-fruit voice-over, non-appearance of star ani-mal - they were all there in Mountains of the Snow Leop-ard, this week's Survival (ITV, Mon). If you judged the film by its first paragraph the way you sometimes judge books. you'd have turned off in the time it takes Goldie Hawn to

say "I me myself".
"One of the world's strange sights is camels in the snow," intoned. "We know them as beasts of the hot places." Nnt

gered elephant. It was also a in this house, we don't. We blind elephant, and a mother of know them as hairy water a small calf to boot. Probably, porters of the Arabian dune.

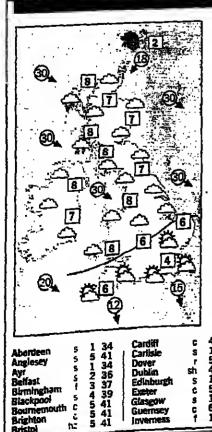
The snow leopard is a recluit, a single mother. Something sive creature; if a celeb were to really emote home about. hired to make a film about how She spent the bulk of the jour- much they identified with the species, it would have to be JD Salinger. Des O'Connor, meanwhile, might appropriher answer, you guessed right ately endorse a creature of if you thought it would be the irritating abundance: a pigeon, last word in solipsistic self- or something, a serial producer delusion. "They take care of of harmless effluent you try your best to ignore. He was back in Des O'Connor Tonight (ITV, Wed), firing off questions bought second-hand from a car boot sale of old newspaper clippings. The Spice Girls came on and gamely tried to parley him up as a groovy uncle. But some figures are beyond the reach of even the most intrepid of irony-clad search-and-rescue

post-modernists. The show should come with a corner logo warning viewers of lazy, morale-sapping televi-sion, say Sky One. The only thing mnre cack-handed this week was Match of the Day's disastrous FA Cup draw (BBC2, Mon), which really will be Sky's happy one day. The BBC Cup final broadcast is an endangered species (nnly nne left), and no amount of jazzy

publicity will save it now. Understanding this, the cleverer Des had gone the way of the snow lengard.

themselves. As they reach the has permeated. I've always a change from the grape harvest. YES. I'D LIKE TO PUT BUT OBVIOUSLY I'D HAVE TO REALLY LOVE YOU ON A PEDESTAL GET THE GALLERY TO PASANDA! REALLY AND SHOW YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS. APPROVE ! COURSE! WOW

WEATHER



General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

A depression will move east today, passing just north of Scotland. A new low will move towards northern Scotland from the west on Monday. Today, mainland Scotland and the western isles are

in for a cloudy, windy day with rain, some of it heavy. The Northern Isles, meanwhile, will get a mix of rain sleet and snow. Northern Ireland is going to be cloudy and windy with rain for much of the day. Most of England and Wales will also see a lot of cloudy weather with showery rain and strengthening westerly winds. It will, though, start off dry and bright to the south.

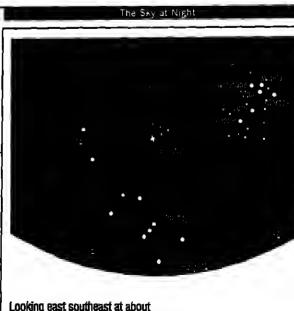
Sunday will see rain across the northern half of the country. However, it should be mostly dry and bright to the south while winds become lighter everywhere. Monday will then provide spells of rain for Scotland and Northern Ireland, with snow for the Scottish mountains. Most of England and Wales will be dry, bright and fairly mild, but showery rain can be expected to the north. It then looks like becoming milder through Tuesday and Wednesday with

increasing southerly winds and rain for most places. 4 39 5 41 4 39 5 41 5 41 1 34 4 39 2 36 7 45 6 43 5 41 5 41 5 41 1 34 4 39

Amsterdam c 5 41
Athens s 16 61
Bangtok f 33 91
Barcelona c 16 61
Belnut c 17 63
Belgrade c 11 52
Berlin c 2 36
*Bermuda c 2 36
Bornbay s 30 86
Brussels f 1 34
Budapest c 5 41
*Burns Alers f 25 79
Cairo f 20 68
Cape Town s 25 77
Casabianca sh 16 61
Copenhagen f 2 36
Cortu c 13 55 r 1 34 m 6 4 50 s 18 64 m 4 39 sn 0 32 c 30 86 s 21 757 c 17 63 sn 1 34 c 1 34 c 1 36 c 17 63

lane closures in operation between the Godstone and A3 junctions as region videning work continues estershire, M5 J17-20. Contraflow in operation across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush hour delays, (Until August 1998). from just north of the M1 J24 to Sewley Island (B6540) as major roadworks connime with no right turn to Donnington Lancachire, A59, Much Hoole, Resurfac ing work on Liverpool Road will cause major hold-ups in both directions to and rom Presson. (Until 10 January 1997).

Out and about with AA Roadwater cal 0338 401 for the latest local and na-tional traffic name. Source: The Automobile



Looking east southeast at about 7.30pm on Saturday 14th December

The Pleiades star cluster in Taurus is a familiar sight in winter evening skies, and easy to find. Despite its popular name, "The Seven Sisters", only six stars are visible to the a young cluster of several hunnaked eye, though hinoculars dred stars, about 400 light will reveal more. According to years away. They formed only myth, the Pleiades were seven beautiful nymphs, daughters of Atlas, Pursued by amorous extinct on Earth. Orion, they were rescued by Jupiter and placed in the sky

as stars. To account for why there are only six, it is said that one left her place so as not to witness the destruction of Troy. Astronomically, the Pleiades is about 50 million years ago after the last dinosaurs became

Jacqueline Mitton



Full Moon: December 24

The Independent next week

Jessica Lange: object of desire

Madonna: Perfect Evita, or is she?

to 8:10am to 8:13am to 8:20am to 8:26am to 8:42am

An Italian Christmas Sat 8.30pm BBC2 TX: Dreamgirls Sat 9.30pm BBC2

American Visions Sun 7.30pm BBC2

Travels with My Camera Sun 8pm C4

Equinox Sun 7pm C4



The big picture

Notorious Sat 3.05pm BBC2

On the outside, Alfred Hitchcock's greatest film of the 1940s is a spy thriller about suspected Nazis holed up in post-war Brazil. At its dark heart, though, is a perverse love story in which American agent Cary Grant (above) forces Ingrid Bergman (above) (the daughter of a Nazi, but a patriotic American who loves Grant) into seducing the leader of the Rio-based Germans, Claude Rains. Terrific suspense, great performances and Ingrid Bergman at her sexiest

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert

begin in earnest is the broadcasters' equivalent of finishing off the scraps - long-running series have to come to a conclusion, and nothing too dainty should be served up to outshine these left-overs. Which nutritional metaphor, as Angus Deayton might say, brings us to An Italian Christmas - Recipes from the River Café (Sat BBC2)

The River Café, in Hammersmith, West London recently described by the New Yorker magazine as probably the best Italian restaurant in Europe - is actually more famous for the cookbook which bears its came. This bible of gastronomy (if you happen to have a wood-burning oven and access to top-quality Italian produce, that is) is an indispensable accessory in the home of any self-respecting young urban professional - even if rests on the coffee table rather than the kitchen shelf. It may not be the sort of tome one turns to after a hard day at the office, but at Christmas it comes into its own - especially if you are looking for an alternative to the dreaded roast turkey and plum pudding. Doesn't polenta with porcini

he weekend before the Christmas schedules mushrooms and white truffles, roasted loin of pork and world of haute couture into the realms of hard vin santo ice-cream sound so much more grown-up? Keith Allen, the former Comic Strip comedian who proved himself a strong dramatic presence in the BBC adaptation of Martin Chuzdewit, has always struck me as, what you might call, a naughty boy. And lo, it turns out he was expelled from school and was in and out of borstal. Allen's principal memory of his father (an oft-absent Royal Navy submariner) was the thought: "O goodo - dad's away and I can be naughty". This week's Travels with My Camera (Sun C4), in which Allen and his father, Eddie, re-visit the scenes

> ing the actor - a surprisingly disciplinarian pareat - goading his own son into doing his homework. TX: Dreamgirls (Sat BBC2) looks at the work of that dark genius of 1970s French Vogue, the photographer Guy Bourdin - whose work was the technicolor twin of Helmut Newton's hlack-and-white fetishismas-fashion. Bourdin, who died in 1991, remains a shadowy figure. Mother-obsessed and misogynistic, he helped push the unsuspecting and uncomplaining

of Allen's misspent youth, continues the circle by show-

A Perfect Candidate Sun 11.25pm C4

pornography. Robert Hughes is at full steam in the ongoing American Visions (Sun BBC2). Zig-zagging across the continent and the 1930s, he takes in skyscrapers, Edward Hopper, the social realism of the New Deal artists, the black diaspora oorthwards, and the hokey vernacular of Grant Wood's American Gothic.

Talking of hokey American vernacular - Colonel Oliver North is captured in A Perfect Candidate (Sun C4), running to represent Virginia in the 1994 Senate elections. Primary Colours it ain't, but the man at the centre of the Iran-Contra arms-for-hostages deal showed a great deal of naïveté in cosying up with film-makers RJ Cutler and David Van Taylor.

Equinox (Sun C4) looks at how the current antiscience populism is endangering vital research. Ironically, given the Vatican's historical antipathy to scientific enlightenment, it is the Pope's medical adviser, Professor Robert White (the only man to have conducted a successful head transplant on a monkey), who is leading the fight for tolerance.



The big match

Zimbabwe v England Sun 7am Sky Sports 2

England's cricketers shook off just enough of their winter cobwebs against Matabeleland this week to make a fist of their first ever match against Zimbabwe on Zimbabwean soil - a one-day international at the Queen's club in Bulawayo. Captain Mike Atherton (above) has only scored 13 runs on the tour so far, but opener Nick Knight notched up a century against Matabeleland and bowler Darren Gough picked up five wickets in the same game. Today's opposition is a step up in class, however.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.05 The Pink Panther Show (R) (1254085).

7.25 News, Weather (2970240). 7.30 Children's BBC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Speed Racer. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (5588882). * 9.15 Live and Kicking. Boyzone and Coronation Street actress Liz Dawn guest (S) (34119191). 12.12 Weather (1121379).

12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Racing from Haydock: the 1.15 Petros Handicap Steeplechase, 1.25 Skiing: Highlights from the men's downhill in Val D'Isère. 1.40 Racing from Haydock: the 1.45 Tote Multibet Handkap Hurdie Race. 1.55 Rugby Union: Preview of today's match between England and Argentina. 2.10 Racing from Haydock: the 2.15 Tommy Whittle Steeplechase, 2.25 Rugby Union: England v Argentina: Live coverage from Twickenham. Commentary from Nigel Stammer-Smith and Bill Beaumont, and the kick-off is at 3pm, 4.45 Final Score (86486733).

5.15 News, Weather (5145733). * 5.25 Regional News and Weather (6099646).
5.30 The Simpsons. Lise falls in love with her substitute

teacher (S) (780337). * 5.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game (S) (338191). * 6.55 Noel's House Party. Uri Geller earns a Gotcha (S) (703801).

7.50 The National Lottery Live. Art Garfunkel sings "Bridge over Troubled Water" (S) (759199). 8.05 Casualty. Traditional pre-Christmas drink-driving

storyline (S) (594004). * 8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (885882). *

9.15 Birds of a Feather (R) (211356). 10.05 One Foot in the Grave (278462). 10.45 Match of the Day. Liverpool v Middlesbrough is the main event, followed by highlights of the World Cup qualifiers featuring Wales v Turkey and Northern Ireland v Albania (127426).

11.35 The Stand-Up Show. More hopefuls go through their stand-up patter (S) (438789). 12.05 Top of the Pops. As shown yesterday (R) (2304115).

12.35 First The Internecine Project (Ken Hughes 1974 UK). Not brilliant, but original and underrated thriller which sees James Coburn as a professor of economics who is offered a top US government post as long as he eliminates the skeletons In his past – four spies in his European industrial espionage network. His plan is to get them to kill each other. Lee Grant, Harry Andrews, Ian Hendry and Michael Jayston co-star (3440405). * 2.00 Weather (1741937). To 2.05am.

REGION5. Wates: 1.55pm World Cup Football: Wales v Turkey, Scot: 2.25pm Rugby Union: Scotland v Italy. NI: 11.35pm Match of the Day from Northern Ireland. 12.25 The Hole in the Wall Gang. 1.00 The Stand-Up Show. 1.30 Top of the Pops. 2.00 Weather.

BBC2

7.10 Etc. The Saint Meets the Tiger (Paul Stein 1943 U5). Hugh Sinclair as the Leslie Charter's hero, taking on gold smugglers (3684424).

8.20 Open University: Women, Children and Work (3675608). 9.10 Seeing Through Maths (4747207). 9.35 Norfolk Broads: Conservation v

Commercialism (2776882). 10.00 Chanakya. Indian historical epic (S) (2008207). 10.35 Network East (S) (5368153). 11.20 Q Asia (7713066).

11.50 Film 96 with Barry Norman (S) (9102820), * 12.20 (19102820) Top Hat (Mark Sandrich 1935 US), Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dancing cheek to cheek through lovely art deco sets in this, their quintessential musical together. Eleven Irving Berlin songs in all, as the plot of the Gay Divorcee

is recycled and sent to Verlice (665733). 1.55 Intermezzo (Gregory Ratoff 1939 US). David O Selznick Introduced his new foreign import, Ingrid Bergman, to the American public by playing it safe and remaking a film Bergman had previous it safe and remaking a film Bergman had previous had a hit with in Sweden. She is the plano teacher who begins an affair with the father (Leslie Howard) of one of her pupils. Syrupy stuff, washed down with Brahms, Liszt and Grieg (8864356). 3.05 Notorious (Alfred Hitchcock 1946 US). See

The big picture, above (19584269). * 4.45 TOTP 2 (S) (1974795).

5.30 IEEE Bhowani Junction (George Cultor 1956 UK).
The last days of the Raj – and Anglo-Indian Ava Gardner is getting grief from Stewart Granger and his pure Brit pals. Fine melodrama capturing the political mood of the times (25780207).
7.15 News and Sport, Weather (342172). * 7.30 Making Waves. To mark the 100th anniversary of

the invention of the radio, the story of its inventor, Guglielmo Marconi (S) (667820), 8.20 What the Papers Say. With Steve Richards of the New Statesman (S) (912375). 8.30 An Italian Christmas - Recipes from the River

Café. See Preview, above (S) (5646). 9.00 Have I Got News for You (S) (6356). 9.30 TX, Dreamgirls: the Photographs of Guy Bourdin. See Preview, above (S) (206085). * 10.20 Crucial Tales. "Phoenix" by Rohan Leslie, about a half-Irish, half-Pakistani man whose parents and

sister are killed in an arson attack. Last of these dramas by black and Asian talent (109795). * 10.50 Later with Jools Holland. With Suede, Alexander

O'Neal and Ray Davies (S) (393017). 11.50 10 x 10: Metvyn's Pencil (S) (100627) 12.00 Jungle Fever (Spike Lee 1991 US). Lee's examination of Inter-racial love - in this case, between married and upwardly mobile African-American architect Wesley Snipes and his Italian-American secretary, Annabella Sciorra (Followed by Weatherview) (S) (16661776). To 2.15am. REGIONS. Scot: 10.20pm Tartan Shorts. 10.40

Crucial Tales. 11.10 Later with Jools Holland. 12.10 Film: Jungle Fever.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 fessor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles... 9.25 Wow (S) (36887375).

11.00 The Noise. The Spice Girls and Gary Barlow are the 11.30 The Chart Show. Howard Jones in the Video Vault

(S) (52288). 12.30 Champions of the Future. Young go-karters with

Formula One-sized ambitions (39207).

1.00 News and Weather (82135882). *

1.05 Local News, Weather (82134153). *

1.10 Movies, Games and Videos. 101 Dalmatians is,

inevitably, up for review (5708153). 1.45 The Making of Star Trelc First Contact. Movie plug (21265530). Hatari! (Howard Hawks 1962 US). Leisurely and generally underrated late-Hawks adventure about the lives and loves of a group of animal trappers in East Africa. John Wayne, Elsa Martinelli

and Red Buttons star (20223117). 4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (8750356). *
5.05 London Tonight, Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) (8837530). *

5.20 Cartoon Time (6076795). 5.30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (820). * 6.00 Gladiators (S) (14998). *

7.00 Blind Date (S) (2269).

8.00 Family Fortunes (Including Lottery Result) (S) 8.30 ITN News, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (800191). *
8.45 ISING Babraan Returns (Tim Burton 1,992 US).

Fans of beautiful women zipped into skintight patent leather bodysuits will possibly get most out of Tim Burton's second foray into Gotham City, as Michael Keator's caped crusader battles Danny DeVito's Penguin and — more ambiguousty — Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman, Actually, there is a lot to admire here - mest especially on the design side, although the script also crackles with Burton's trademark perverse wit. Christopher Walken, Michael Gough and Michael Murphy are in the support cast (S) (95906646). *

11.00 Digance in a Field of His Own. "Richard Digance entertains an audience of 800 with his witty stories, songs and poetry." Just passing that on (S) (21375). 1

12.00 ETEM A House of Secrets and Lies (Paul Schneider 1992 US). Connie Sellecca plays a successful TV presenter who is persuaded by one of her on-air guests that she should no longer tolerate husband Kevin Dobson's womanising. Dial "T" for therapy (886937).

1.50 Funny Business (S) (2672467). 2.20 The Chart Show (R) (S) (3883776). 3.10 E! News Review (5033738). 4.00 The Best of God's Gift (R) (3590554).

5.05 Coach (R) (S) (1699863). To 5.30am.

Satellite

4.50 Night Shift (R) (S) (31126015).

Channel 4

6.00 Early Morning: Sesame Street (R) (78882). 7.00 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (10269). 7.30 Really Wild Animals (1108172). 7.55 Hong Kong Phooey (R) (4183240). 8.05 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice (R)

9.30 The Morning Line (S) (6932172).
9.00 The Morning Line (S) (18998).
10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia, Serie A preview (28288).
11.00 Blitz! Gridinon review (S) (68004).

12.00 Sign On (S) (17838).

12.30 Inside the Vatican. Sir Peter Ustinov is your guide, this week slack-jawed in wonderment at Da Vinci and Michelangelo's Interior decor (R) (9074578). 1.20 Madame O'Hara. Animation (82142172).

1.30 Racing from Cheltenham. Brough Scott Introduces the 1.55 Bonusprint Bula Hurdle, 2.30 Tripleprint Gold Cup Handicap Chase, 3.05 Doubleprint Novices' Chase and the 3.40 Lonesome Glory Hurdle (S) (93010714). 4.05 Mecca on Thames. Repeat Witness film about the

Arabic community which has settled around the Edgware Road and Queensway area of north-west London (R) (S) (1083172). * 5:05 Brookside Omnibus, Aka The Simpsons (S)

6.30 Right to Reply (S) (960269), *
7.10 A Week in Politics. Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley produce the week's wryest politics show on the box (S) (762714).

8.00 The Saga of Life. Last in the short series of programmes charting the life and career of Lennart Nilsson, looking at the revolutionary skills that eventually enabled him to take pictures of the unbom child (S) (9559). *

9.00 ER. Greene treats a youngster who may need openheart surgery (R) (S) (147207). *
9.55 Jo Brand – through the Cakehole. Gaby Roslin, Mark Laman, Steve Coogan and Una Stubbs join In a spoof game show (R) (S) (963820). * 10,25 NYPD Blue (R) (S) (810462). *

11.25 Base The Fury (Brian De Ralma 1978 US):
11.3: De Balma's follow-up to Carrie also involves teenagers with psychic powers – this one sees Andrew Stevens being kidnapped by government agent John Cassavetes, who's intent on harnessing the lad's kinetic powers for national security purposes. De Palma at his most cold and Hitchcockian, but his obsession with surface style is beguiling in its own right. Kirk Douglas and Arny Irving also star (61919578). *

1.35 Late Licence: Manga (S) (6137301). 2.35 The New Twilight Zone. A boy makes the shocking discovery of an evil force known as the Shadow Man living under his bed (S) (9941955). 3.05 United States of Television. Porn channels, the

Republican Party's "GOP TV" broadcasts and interactive TV shopping (R) (S) (5043115). 3.50 Mr Don and Mr George (R) (S) (90182383). 4.20 The Real World (S) (3592912). To 5.15am.

ITV/Regions

MIGUN .
As Landon receipt: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (39207). 1.15 Film: Errest Saves Christmas (72426443). 3.05 Cartoons (8986172). 3.15 Film: Baywalch: Shaftered (592443). 12.00 Film: The Town (402757). 1.40mm Carnal Knowledge (6986405). 2.35am Film: Project Thi Man (9609641). 3.45am Helter Stetter (5456283). 4.30 Coach (41347). 5.00-5.30em World of Saling (72660).

CENTRIL.

As Lindon except: 12.30pm Premiere (39207): 1.10 Carbon Time (9062):35G. 1.25 Dirusalus (30246714). 1.55 Eastern Mbr (21252066): 2.25 Movies, Gernes and Videos (92614153). 2.55 Film: The Plank (7880375): 3.50 Arwolf (969):646). 5.10 Goels Extra (5131530), 4.50am Jobfinder (79807641). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (1943660).

The serial child rates

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All London except: 12,30pm West: Movies, Garries and Videos (39207). Waites: California off Book (91724559). 12,45 Waites: Rugby 2000 (91712714). 1.10 West: Airwolf (9682608). Waites: The Electric Chair (30240530). 1.40 Waites: Movies, Garries and Videos (21256882). 2,00 West: Carboon Time (70208511). 2.10 Film: The Christmas Star (724085). 3,50 Knight: Rider (969)1646). 12,00 Film: The lower (402757). 1,40am Camal Knowledge (6986405). 2,35am Film: Project: Tin Man (9609641): 3,45am Heller Skelter (5456283). 4,30 Coach (41347). 5,00-5,30am Warh of Saligo (72560).

Richard | March | 12.30 mm | Movies, Garnes and Videos | (39207). 1.10 | Knuing Caus (30240530). 1.40 | Beach | Volleyball (21256882). 2.10 | Making of Star Tiels: First | Contact (80085545). 2.40 | Magner Cartorn (3960546). 2.50 | Airwolf (7881004). 3.45 | Knight Rider (192172). 12.00 | Film The Tower (402757). 1.40 | the Carnel (704469). (6986405). 2.35 | March | Film: Project: Tin | March (9609641). 3.45 | March | Steffer (5456283). 4.30 | March (41347). 5.00-5.30 | March | Freetman (72660).

MESICUMINY ASSENCE SERVICE STREET STREET STREET SERVICE SERVIC 12.00 Fibro The Tower (402757). 1.40am Carnal Knowledge. (6986405). 2.35am, Fibro. Projects. Tin. Man 6909641). 3.46am Heiter Seater (5456283). 4.30 Chech (41347). 5.00-5.30am, Wildel of Saling (72660).

As C4 except: 10.00am Rookies (95462), 10.30 New As C4 except: JOUGHAM HODGES [95-962]; J.O.30 Vest Samesmester (85998); IZ-30pm Movlewarch (37849); J.O0 Fresh Pup (82/33424); J.O5 The Playhousa (30235608); 4,05 A Carls World (1083/172); 6,30 Real Holiday Show (627); 7,00 News (349085); 7,15 No son Lawren (3876191); B.20 Hel Straeon (848191); B.50 Lon Goed (364/191); 9,25 Pet-Droad Cyrpan Y Byd 1998 (217530); J.O.20 The Hours and the Times (2384269), 1.35-5.15mm Late Licence (66642370)



Radio

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00
Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00
John Peel 7.00 Danny Rampling
– Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00
Rap Show 12.00 Reggae Oance-hall Nile 2.00 Essential Mox
4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2

136 90, 166 90 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 Arthur Smith's Amusing Bits 1.30 Smith and Jones Sound Off 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Dame Edna's Aural Expen-ence. See Choice, above. 6.00 By Jeeves See Choice, above, 7.30
Donns O'Noll in Concert 9.30
Dand Jacobs 10.00 Spread a Little
Happwass 12.05 Charles Nove
4.00-6.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3

7.00am Record Review With Richard Osborne.

8.45 An Advent Calendar.

9.00 Building a Ubrary. Robert
Philip surveys the available
recordings of conductor Arturo 10.15 The Record Industry Today, With the media still full of gloom

about the current state of the

record industry, Anthony Burton discusses some of the issues with record company executives Peter Alward from EMI and Alison Wenham from BMG Conder. 11.15 Reissues. Patrick O'Connor samples include ballet music by Glazimov, Delibes, Khachaturan, Kabalevsky and Shostakovich. 12.00 Private Passions, Michael Berkeley talks to the novelist Alan Hollingturst, whose musi-cal choices range from Schu-mann's enigmatic Camaval and Janacek's Skring Quartet No 2 to

the love duet from Tristan and Isolde. 1.00 News, Vinlage Years. Annette Morreau explores the life and work of Austrian cellist Emanuel commerical recordings of music by Saint-Saens and Bach. (2/4).

Yoshkmatsu: Threnody: Gullar Concerto, Symphony No 2. 4.15 Teares and Mourning A per-formance of the Funeral Teares and Songs of Mourning by Gio-vanni Coprano, the 17th-Century English composer. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. With



Things get very larky over on Radio 2, where Dame Edna's Aural Experience (5pm R2) has everybody's favourite megastar (left) joined by such comparatively pallid sex symbols as Joanna Lumley and Lord Archer. That's followed by the first broadcast of the lately revived Ayckbourn/Lloyd Webber musical, By Jeeves (6pm R2).

5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett and guests celebrate the tradi-tional Christmas pantomime. 6.30 Live from the Met. Donizeth L'Elisir d'Amore. Opening the season at the Metropolis Opera in New York, a cornedy about love, folly and the chance of making a tast buck. The lovesick Nemorino purchases a mage elbur from a quack in the hope it will make the tair Adina fall in love with him. Sung in

italian. 9.20 Speaking Volumes, is it more 9.20 speaking volumes, is it more than just geography which divides the literary worlds of France and Britain?

9.50 Fea. Jazz. Shostalovich: Jazz. Suite No 1; Tahiti Trot.

10.05 Scofield and Brecker, Guitarist John Scofield and saxo-obsert Ministell Parates.

recorded in concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London, during the recent London Jazz Festival. 1.00 Through the Night. 6.00-7.00am Sequence. Radio 4 G2 4-94 GMR: FM: 195Mr: LWD 6.00am News Briefing.

7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. Anne Gregg presents the latest holiday and travel news. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. Present-

ed by Ned Sherrin. 11.00 News; The Week in West-minster. With Simon Heffer of the Dail Mail. 11.30 EuroFile. 12.25 I'm Sony I Haven't a Cive. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.00 News; Any Answers? 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Theo. By Moya O'Shea. Made in Germany in 1908, Theo is a rare cinna-mon plush bear with boot-buttor he is Lot No. 107 and the auction is about to begin. With Mar-tin Jarvis, Thomas Connor and Ross Livingstone.
4.00 News; Making History. Profes

sor Christopher Andrew reveals how a best-selling historian gets to grips with his subject; why to gros with his stolect; why the work of a student may be too top-secret for his examiners to read; and what an Ulster his-torian makes of a war memorial which proved an embarrassmer to the Irish Republic for nearly

half a century.
4.30 Science Now.
5.00 File on 4.
5.40 in Celebration. Eyiure Eyelashes. Over eight million pairs of false eyelashes a year were sold throughout the 1960s. Longtime devotee Molly Parkin pays tribute to the spidery stack-one with the help of designers. help of designers, make-up artists and the factory workers of

.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 All about Eve. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. An ex-tended interview with Richard Makey to mark the recent publi-cation of his landmark work,

Flora Brittanica. 7.50 On These Days. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Pau-pers and Pig Killers. Eric Pringle's acclaimed dramatisa-tion of the diaries of William Holland, a Somerset parson who wrote about file in a small West Country community at the turn of the 18th Century. With Renald Pickup, Rosemary Mar-tin, Gavin Muir and Gordon

Gostelow, (1/3). 9.35 Classics with Kay, Brian Kay

9.50 Ten to Ten. Richard Coles talks to Dally Express Editor Richard Addis talks about his

10.15 I Am a Donut, By Mike Bradwell. As an American entre-preneur becomes more atturned to the East German pece of life, he finds the hard-nosed business lactics of his colleggies increas-

tactics of his colleagues increasingly repugnant. [2/2].

11.15 Kirt. Dame Kint Te Kanawa talks to June Knox-Mawer about her life and music.

11.45 Uncle Morts Celtic Fringe.
By Peter Tinniswood. Carter Brandon takes his blood-red Beetle to Wales, and with him goes his Uncle Mort. (2/5).

12.00 Naws.

12.30 The Late Story: The Rocket.
By Jan Broomfield. By Jan Broomfield.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5

Maturo 3
(93,90%) MM
(93,90%) MM
(94,90%) MM
(95,90%) Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM 1100.6-101.594½ FAO 1003-10198th RI
5.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic
Countdown 12.00 Classic Gardening
Forum 1.00 Alan Marun 4.00 Nick
Bailey 7.00 Russian Revelation 8.00
Evening Concert. Roussals Bacdrus
et Arisne. Dvorals Cello Concerto in
B minor, Janacels Glagolithic Mass
10.00 Classic Cluiz 12.00 Andre
Leon 4.00 Travel Guide 5.006.00am Michael Bacstone

6.00am Michael Fanstone. Virgin Radio 11215, 1197-1260Mz MW 105 BMBz PMS 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ and Jono's Greatest His 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00 Mark Forest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00 Howard Pearce World Service

7.00am My Little Pony (8166795). 7.25 Dynamo Duck (6449820), 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (42882), 8.00 Orson and Olivia (26269), 8.30 Free Willy (18240), 9.00 The Best of Sally Jessy Raphael (54714). 10.00 Designing Women (15240). 10.30 Murphy Brown (38004). 11.00 Parier Lewis Can't Lose (70004), 11.30 Real TV (71733), 12.00 WWF (69462), 1.00 The Hit Mix (45882), 2.00 Hercules (23269), 3.00 The Lazarus Man (82849), 4.00 WWF (61356), 5.00 (32849), 4000 WWF (67356), 5.00 Pacific Blue (1608), 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (8627), 6.30 Just Rodding (2207), 7.00 Hercules (85707), 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (82337), 9.00 Cops (95801), 10.00 The Extraordinary (35248). 11.00 Stand and Deliver (52085). 11.30 Movie Show (11424), 12,00 Dream On (22270), 12,30 The Fifth Corner

(65937). 1.30 The Edge (63028). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix (26573). 7.00om Earth 2 (1353646), 8.00 JAG (1339066). 9.00 VR5 (1342530). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (7135714). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (7144462). 11.00 The Hit Mix (1760240). 12.00 Films Wait Until Dark (1967) (2179486). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix Long

6.00am The Games (1970) (39040). 8.00 A Mother's Story (1982) (47849). 10.00 Mrs Doubtire (1993) (36284743), 12.05 Clarence the Cross-Eyed Lion (1965) (316820). 2.00 The Salzburg Cornection (1972) (89240), 4.00 The Sandlox (1993) (52753424), 5.55 Mis Doublife (1993) (98212004), 8.00 Star Tres-Generations (1994) (11849), 10.00 Pulo Fiction (1994) (36146795), 12.35 Scoret Garnes III (1995) (173026). 2.10 Body Bags (1993) (3927825). 3.40-6.00am Police Rescue (1994) (86743283).

6.00am The Rains Came (1939) (39022), 8.00 Carnival in Costa Rica (1947) (38191), 10.00 Silence of Adultery (1995) (59085). 12.00 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (28714). 2.00 The Day They Gave Ba-bies Away (1957) (67832). 4.00 The Steal (1995) (7882). 6.00 Sister Act II. Back in the Habit (1993) (35266). Back in the Habit (1994) (352-6). 8.00 Mejor League II (1994) (85761). 10.00 in the Mouth of Madness (1995) (884443). 11.40 Bitter Vergeance (1994) (460207). 1.15 Incident at De-ception Ridge (1994) (170592). 2.50 A Dangarous Affair (1994) (599134). 4 26.6 Done The Strat (1905). 4.25-6.00am The Steal (1995)

SICY MOYIES GOLD 4.00pm White Christmas (1954) (8695004), 6,00 Arsenic and Old Lace (1944) (3082443), 8,00 Deadfalf (1968) (3094288), 10.00 Star Tirely V. The Final Frontier (1989) (9386530). 11.50 Body Double (1984) (4767.153). 1.45 A Farewell to Arms (1957) (62085009). 4.20-5.50am Re-turn of the Bad Men (1948) (34984399).

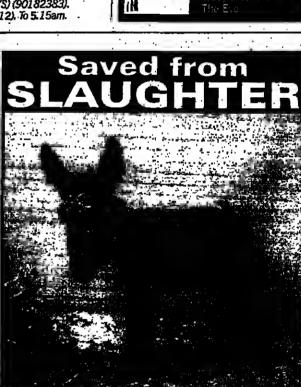
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SKY SPORTS 2

7.00em Socar AM (2839356). 11.00 -Footbell (2989646). 12.00 Crickel: England Tour Preview (3374952). 2.00 Engano four Frenew (3374952). 2.00 Watersports (9086527). 3.00 Fool (6405608). 5.30 World Sport (3579207). 6.00 Gelf (4118646). 7.00 Sports Unlimited (6678849). 8.00 Criclest (6658085). 10.00 Squash (6660820). 11.00 Criclest: Hall of Farme (2973191). 11.30-1.00am Footbell, FA Cup Final Classics (3/3/1993). SICY SPORTS 3

32 30015 3 1.2.00 noon Asian Golf (43692153). 1.00 Motor Sport (42308004). 5.00 Squastr: World Open (41148795). 6.00 UK Skiff Selling (83849337). 6.30 High 5 (83863917). 7.00 Asian Golf (41073240). 8.00 Golf: The Route in Perfection (79510714). 9.30 Rugby Union International: Engand v Argentina (29375462). 11.30-12.00mk/night High 5 (94397337).

6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pets 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Campus Capers 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Video Bro 1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Fashion
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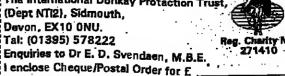
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Don't hold your breath over Guinness report

JEREMY WARNER

o finally, finally, after all these years, the Department of Trade and Industry is to publish its report on the Guinness affair. It might actually do so as early as next week, although the DTI was yesterday casting doubt on whether it could be ready quite so soon. The spark for this belated little act of public service is next Tuesday's ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on whether Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, was unfairly tried over the Guinness shares fraud.

Whatever the judges bave to say on the matter, the DTI takes the view that it is now free to publish the results of its 10-year investigation of how Guinness illegally won cootrol of Distillers in the mid-1980s. Conspiracy theorists will believe the timing is dictated by the Government's desire to deflect attention from what is all too likely to be another slap in the face for British justice from the European courts. Europe might wish to say, or at least imply, that Mr Saunders and others didn't get a fair trial, but this report will claim in the strongest possible language that be is as guilty as sin. The Serious Fraud Office will fight tooth and oail to uphold the Guinness convictions, whatever the European

court says.
I've followed the various twists and turns in the Guinness affair pretty closely over the

version of this report. However, from reasonably well informed gossip and an earli-er unpublished draft it is possible to surmise roughly what's in it. Don't hold your breath.

Ten years after the event and with numerous criminal and civil trials to sift the evidence, there isn't a great deal the inspectors can say which is genuinely new about this affair. The Guinness scandal has passed into history and that's what the report is - a history book. There are no significant changes in the law, corporate governance or City practice the inspectors can recommend, for the lessons have been largely learnt and generally acted upon, in so far as they ever can be.

It is, of course, the case that the inspectors can still pass judgement on individuals and organisations still alive and kicking - and they will - but it isn't going to surprise anyone to learn that Mr Saunders is a erook or that Morgan Grenfell, his City advisers at the time, disregarded accepted rules and practices.

From what I bear about this report, bowever, the inspectors have missed an opportunity. In their analysis, evidence and judgement, they mirror very closely the prosecution case aired in the various criminal proceedings. Broadly, this attempts to pin blame for the scandal on a small group of years, but unfortunately I haven't yet been able to get my hands on a copy of the final ganisations they represented.

Saunders they conspired one with another illegally to support the Guinness share price and that this was kept secret not only from the markets (for the trick would not have worked if everyone had known the share price was being artificially supported), but also everybody else at Guinness and its professional advisers. Ergo these are the culpable ones and everyone else - lawyers, accountants. City advisers and the like - is in the clear. Indeed the case goes rather further than that, for to work properly - as it plainly did in the first Guinness trial - it needs you to believe that no one outside this inner core had any conception of what was going on. Moreover, they would have been

they known. Tve never believed this to be the full picture. It is largely true but the real story is more complicated - that the Guinness affair took place against a well established backdrop of cavalier practice and behaviour that eocouraged the main protagonists into believing that if this was not quite the accepted way of doing things it was common enough at least to be tolerated. In some City firms practice of this sort was endemic, going unchecked either by internal controls or out-

profoundly shocked and tried to stop it had

side regulators. I'm not saying bere that any of the professionals caught up in the Guinness affair

the place saying there's something wrong here and we are going to find out about it. No one ever starts in these situations from the point of view that their client is a crook nor is it their job to act as watchdogs over the activities of others.

All the same, it seems astonishing that nobody suspected what was going on. At the very least they should have been more vigorous in their approach. In the cut and thrust of a contested takeover an anything goes culture rapidly takes hold. It is reasonable to expect established practitioners in these matters to keep things in check. Even after DTI inspectors were sent into Guinness the attitude among some remained one of relaxed complescency right up to the moment when the full enormity of the scandal emerged. Then everyone ran for cover.

The Ernest Saunders version of eveots, that all these professionals knew what was going on and conspired to pin the whole saga on him, is absurd. But with so many highly paid, top-drawer names around the table to advise and guide him, it is hard to understand how this could have been allowed to happen, even now, ten years after the event. There won't be much of this in the DTI report, however. The possibility that the whole thing might have been avoided bad a more vigorous and professional approach! be running his own show.

The central allegation is that led by Mr should have been officiously running around is a shame for it might have led to a more legally to support the Guineau that they rounded and illuminating report. The inspectors were in a position to tackle the question of whether the night watchman was asleep on the job. They appear to bave decided not to.

> Nobody should be too surprised by the speciacle of Duncan Lewis flouncing out of his Granada TV job so soon after joining. Incompatability seems to be his middle name. He did much the same thing when he was at Cable & Wireless's Mercury Communications subsidiary. He lasted barely more than a year there too. Gerry Robinson and Charles Allen are hard task masters. applying a vigorous regime of management control and accountability throughout the Granada empire. In never seemed very likely that they would be able to work happily with Mr Lewis.

> He'll claim that he was never allowed the money or flexibility to do what he wanted with Granada's television interests. They'll claim he couldn't run a That's wbat happens when you get a difference of approach in business. The real problem, I suspect, is that Mr Lewis wants to be his own boss. He wasn't, either at Mercury or Granada. Mr Lewis is the type of executive who needs to

Lopez stole GM secrets, court told

Intre Karacs

The former head of purebasing at General Motors, Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, systematically stole trade secrets from the company as part of a premeditated act hatched several months before be jumped rip for Volkswagen, German prosecutors claimed vesterday. The allegations came as Mr

Lopez was formally indicaed on charges of industrial espionage by the prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, near Frankfurt. Charged alongside Mr Lopez

were three other former GM ex-ecutives who defected to VW with him three-and-a-half years ago - Jose Manuel Gutierrez, Jorge Alvarez and Rosario Pi-

However, the prosecutors said that their investigation had found no evidence that VWs chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, or anyone else from the German car maker was involved in the alleged espionage. Gerhard Andres, the chief publie prosecutor, said more serious charges of fraud were not amount of financial damage to

GM could be determined. But referring to Mr Lopez and the other indicted executives, he said: "The accused planned to acquire business

documents from the research. planning, production, and purchasing departments with a view toward their planned joint move to VW." This had been premeditated and planned mooths ahead.

Mr Lopez, head of purchasing for GM's European subsidiary Opel had revolutionised the car maker's relationship with suppliers, preparing the ground for cheaper produc-

He was first approached by Mr Pieco in November 1992 Following their meeting. Mr Lopez and three of his closest colleagues began rifling through. GM's confidential documents, the prosecutors allege.

In March 1993 Mr Lopez informed GM that he was leaving, whereupon be was offered a promotion, which he gratefully accepted. A few days later. however, Mr Piech trumped the counter-offer, and Mr Lopez this time handed GM his final letter of resignation and

took the first plane to Germany.
At VW headquarters in Wolfsburg, the GM defectors set themselves up in offices enveloped in a bubble of hi-tech security. Their missioo was to develop the concept for an assembly plant codenamed "B" in

the Spanish Basque country.
The factory would be the embodiment of all Lopez prin- eotire GM-Opel range in Eu-



Eye of the storm: German prosecutors Thomas Selfert (left) and Gerhard Andres during their announcement in Darmstad yesterday of a criminal indictment charging the former VW executive José Ignacio Lopez and three associates with conspiracy to steal trade secrets when they defected from General Motors in 1993 Photograph: Herbert Proepper/AP

ciples combined; cars would be slotted together from "modules", rather than smaller com: " 1992. ponents as before, and fitted on the assembly line largely by workers employed by outside

contractors at cheaper rates Only one such factory existed elsewhere in the world, and even then only in blueprint form the bush-hush "Plant X" designed by GM and also des-tined for oorthern Spain. Those are the very plans that Mr Lopez is said to have stolen.

In addition to these plans the Darmstadt prosecutors claim that the four accused also pinched suppliers' price lists, cost information on virtually the

the interests of our borrowers

rope, and documents outlining GM's cost-cutting strategy for

If convicted, Mr Lopez could face a five-year prison term, though as a first offender be would probably escape with a Lawyers acting for Mr Lopez

challenged the prosecutors' findings, saying they bad mistaken documents that GM had previously made public for company secrets and that many of their witnesses were not credible. Jurgen Taschke and Eberbard Wahle, representing Mr Lopez, said the charges would not stand up in court and they would seek to have them dis-

Key dates in the Lopez affair

Lopez Joffs GM Spain 1980 -Lopez appointed Head of Purchasing at Opet Lopez has first meeting with Ferdinand Piech, 1986 chairman of VW Lopez joins VW as Head of Purchasing, then quits to become president of GM North America, which he then quits after a few days to rejoin VW Opel starts legal action against Lopez for industrial

8 Mar 96 - GM files civil suit in America against VW for criminal VW sues GM for defamation: US judge in Detroit rules GM can pursue claim.

for damages Lopez resigns from VW, but is rehired immediately 13 Dec -Lopez and three other former executives formally indicted by German prosecutors

Swiss operator picks BT as partner

British Telecom yesterday further strengthened its network of European alliances after it was selected as one of the international partners for Switerland's second licenced telecoms operator Newtelco. BT and Tele Danmark will acquire a significant minority stake in Newtelco, which was set up earlier this year by Swiss Federal Railways, Union Bank of Switerland and Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, the country's largest retailer.

Foster's settles forex action

Foster's Brewing Group of Australia has agreed to settle its civil action over alleged fraudulent foreign exchange deals against John Elliott, the former chief executive, and others. The others that are covered by the settlement are former executives Peter Scanion, Ken Biggins and Ken Jarrett, the Bank of New Zealand and auditor Price Waterhouse, "The terms of the settlement ... re-main confidential," said Foster's, which bad sued Messrs Elliott. Scanlon and Biggins in a bid to recover A\$66.5m (£32m) allegedly lost in fraudulent foreign exchange transactions in 1988.

Toad motors towards full listing

Toad, the car gadgets group founded by Chris Evans, the biotechnology tycoon, is tapping the market for £7.1 m in a five-for-nine open offer at 80p, and moving to a full listing. The company, curreolly quoted on the Alternative investment Market, said it wanted to spend £1.35m opening another five or six depots to add to the existing 17. Interim losses deepened from £801,000 to £2.46m, but Toad is forecasting profits in the year to March 1998.

Burnfield to pay £24m for Ling

Burnfield bas reached agreement to acquire Ling Dynamic Sys-tems Limited for £24m. Ling designs and makes vibration testing equipment used by the aerospace, electronics and automotive industries. The acquisition will be financed mainly by a £20.3m, seven-for-10 rights issue at 90p per share. Ling made pre-tax profus of £2.3m in the year eoded 31 July. Burnfield forecasts operating profit for the year ending 31 December will be not less than £3.5m.

John Lewis sales ahead 13 per cent

Jobn Lewis Partnership said total sales for the 19 weeks to 7 December were 11 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Sales in John Lewis department stores were 12.9 per cent ahead while sales in Waitrose supermarkets showed a 11 per cent increase.

Ladbroke solves Hilton dispute

Ladbroke bas reached an out-of-court settlement in a rent review dispute with the landlord of the Paris Hilton. The parties have been in litigation over the level of reot payable on the hotel since 1992. Under the settlement the annual charge for 1996 and each year to 2008 will be Fr47m (£5.5m), indexed annually for inflation, Separately, Ladbroke said it has sold the 400-room Washington Vista Hotel in Washington DC for \$47m (£28m), to Interstate Hotels.

Asda launches unisex perfume

Asda claimed it was the first supermarket to enter the premium perfume market yesterday when it launched its first fragrance. George 1. The unisex seeot is priced at £9.99, in a hid to undercut rivals such as Calvin Kline's CK.

Bunzl in talks to buy Filtrona

Bunzl is in discussions regarding the possible cash purchase of the bonded fibres business of American Filtrona, which is listed on Nasdaq. The bonded fibres business, which had sales of \$12.9m (£38m) and made operating profits of \$7.3m in 1995, manufac-

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Halifax raises mortgage rate

Banking Correspondent

Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender in the UK, finally raised its standard variable mortgage rate to 7.25 per cent yesterday, two weeks after its rivals acted on the quarter percentage point rise in base rates announced in October.

The move will allow the society to raise its saviogs rates in the new year when competitioo to woo savers is expected to hot up when several leading building societies plan to convert to banks, unleashing a £17bn windfall for investors.

Alliance & Leicester was the first of the big societies to increase mortgage rates earlier this month. But Halifax decided to hold off until this week's monthly meeting between the Chaocellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England before instigating its first rate rise since February 1995.

The move comes amid growing evidence that the housing market is staging a recovery and shows the oeed to increase the rates on offer to savers, who have lost out in the race among building societies and banks to win mortgage business.

and savers whilst continuing to remain competitive in the market. The recovery in the bousing market continues and over the last two years borrowers have henefited from low interest rates and low mortgage payments," said Mike Blackburn chief executive of Halifax The rate rise by Halifax al-

lowed Nationwide, the largest remaining building society, to yesterday increase its standard variable mortgage rates by a quarter of a point to 6.99 per cent - which is still a quarter of a point below that offered by the "We always have to balance large lenders.

Stock market jitters barumered another two oew issues yesterday wheo Oxford Biomedica shares opened at less than half their placing price and it emerged that Fountain Forestry was cutting by 50 per cent the amount being raised from its own Alternative Iovestracot

Oxford, a biotechnology group backed by Oxford University, saw its shares start dealings on AIM at just 42.5p yesterday morning, some 52 per cent below the 88p at which the

They ended slightly up at 47.5p. Sentiment took a dive earlier this week when it was revealed that the two main underwriters. Stockton Trading, a Bahamianregistered company, and Kaj Kjellquist, a private Swedish investor, had withdrawn their combined £5m commitment to noderwrite the £6.15m theo being raised. The move forced the company to delay first dealings until yesterday and reduce the amount being raised to £5m, which Oxford said was its minimum working capital re-quirement, although it had orig-

brokers Teather & Greenwood said the company was reserving its right to take legal action against the underwriters, whose actions were the main cause of the "appalling" opening price.
The flop is the latest in a list of disappointing biotechnology flotations. Earlier this year, Cambrio abandoned plans to float, and Xenova bas been

forced to cut the amount being raised by £2.4m to £22.6m. The news came as Fountain Forestry, which manages 80,000 hectares of forest and clears leaves from railway lines, said its placing would raise £2.25m.

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Netanyahu's coming war

As Israelis and Palestinians bury their dead in the West Bank, Robert Fisk visits southern Lebanon where he finds evidence of a conflagration in the making

n explosion is coming in the Middle East, a detonation change the region forever. We in the West have largely chosen not to heed the signs of impending calamity, preferring instead to pretend that the long-dead and deeply flawed "peace process" still has life in its decaying body, that the venal institutions of the Palestinian authority may yet control their society and create a democratic state or that the Israeli prime minister really means peace when he orders the scizure of more Arah land on the West Bank (or Jewish homes.

But the Arah world is bracing itself for the shock wave of terrible events over the coming months as a right-wing Israel is confronted by the fury of those Arabs who believe they have been betrayed not only by Israel and by meaningless peace agreements but by the United States, which acted as guarantor of every treaty and every annex.

Just where the explosion will come may seem academic. Will it be in Ramallah, besieged by Israeli troops since the murder of a Jewish settler and her son in the occupied West Bank, claimed by a Palestinian group based in Damascus? Will it come in Hebron, from which Israel has failed to withdraw troops under the terms of its own signed agreement with the Palestinians? In Yasser Arafat's slum state of Gaza? Or will it come - and again, the world pays no attention to this possibility - in Lebanon? For if Benjamin Netanyahu is, as presidenis Moubarak and Assad and King Hussein suspect, deliberorder to destroy even the memory of the "peace process", then the answer may be found on a treeless, wind-swept hillside

called Jebel Basil. One of a series of low, stony escarpments in southern Lebanon, il forms part of the dividing line between Israel's occupation army in Lebanon and the United Nations zone to the north.

The terrain is important because, on 9 November, the Israelis, while manning an artillery compound on top of a neighbouring hill, sent one of their American-made M-60 tanks - known in Israel as a "Magash" - down a small road cut into the side of Jebel Basil. With their vehicle draped in armour, the tank crew had no reason to fear the journey. The pro-Iranian Hizhollah, which attacks Israel's occupation troops daily, had been unable to damage Israeli tanks with their wire-guided, Russian-made Saggar missiles.

On this occasion, however, a Nepalese soldier serving with the UN saw a Hizbollah man preparing to fire a new kind of missile from behind a large hush on Jebel Basil. The rocket soared across the hillside, made contact with the tank and burned its way through the armour, exploding when it had penetrated the hull. One Israeli soldier was killed and two oth-

ers seriously wounded. Just 24 hours later, the Israelis sent another heavily armoured M-60 to drag the carcass of the destroyed tank away. Again, the Hizbollah were waiting and again they fired a missile which hurned through inches of armour, detonating inside the tank, this time badly wounding the three man crew. Eyewitnesses were quick to recognise the new weapon as a Russian 113 "Koncurs" anti-tank Spandrel by Nato - which uses a shaped charge Heat (high explosive anti-tank) warhead to burn through armour.

The Israelis were equally quick to react. They secretly withdrew all their M-60 tanks from southern Lehanon, replacing them with the better armoured Israeli-made Merkavas. With equal secrecy, they abandoned at night one of their strongest compounds above the Litani river at Alman, which is subject to daily missile attacks. Confidential orders were given to Israeli troops that the Hizbollah had so deeply infiltrated the ranks of Israel's own satrap militia, the "South Lebanon Army", that they were no longer to mount joint patrols with the militiamen nor share artillery compounds with them.

srael, in other words, is on

the run in southern Lebanon. The roads are so prone to guerrilla attack that at least one Israeli position is now resupplied from the sea by Zodiak dinghies launehed from gunboats. The commander of Israel's SLA militia, Antoine Land, has been sentenced to death in absentia by a Lebanese military court, while one of Israel's Lebanese collaborators, after being convicted of planting a homb which killed the brother of a pro-Iranian Hizbollah sympathiser and two civilians, was put before a firing squad in a Beirut prison. The only publichy stated response to this fiasco was the announcement by Israel that it had formed a supposedly élite military squad in its Lebanese occupation zone known as Egoz - the Hebrew word for walnut.

Far from being élite, Egoz was responsible for laying booby-trap bombs in the UN zone during last April's Israeli-Hizbollah war, a mine-setting exercise that was ambushed by Hizbollah from near the Qana UN headquarters; Israel's "exactly who is being trained Washington that would have Americans by these reports -

response to that ambush was to- and for what missions are fire back, slaughtering more than 100 civilians sheltering inside. "We know how to crack walnuts," Hizbollah radio replied. "They are hard on the outside but soft inside."

What has worried UN officers in Lebanon, however, has been the journalistic and political response to these largely uncovered events. First, the Israeli press and then American journalists began reporting, in remarkably similar language, a massive new "terrorist" threat in Lebanon. No sooner had the Jerusalem Post proclaimed the danger than the Washington Post was reporting from the Lebanese city of Baalbek that Bahraini, Saudi, Algerian, Kuwaiti, Kurdish, Sudanese, Bosnian and even Basque separatists were training in Lebanese "terrorist" camps. The report quoted unnamed security "officials" - some of whom were presumably Israeli -even if it did coyly admit that peace" deal brokered by

among the many mysteries ..."! By 24 November, the Bosion Globe was reporting

"In Mideast, a renewal of terror", adding that "the Middle East seems to be slipping back into its old ways" - whatever that means. Another American paper speculated on the possibility of a Hizbollah missile attack on Haifa - Hizbollah have no missile capable of reaching that city - and of a Syrian "decision" (unsourced) to give greater support to "terror groups". By Tuesday this week, Israeli joint chief of staff General Matan Vilnai was saying that Israel will strike "very hard" if Syria went to war. Syria, of course, gives its encouragement to Hizbollah, allows weapons to pass through Damascus, and is in no mood to restrain the guerrilla group when the Israelis are publicly washing their hands of the "land for

returned the Golan Heights to

ebanon fears that they understand all too well both the journalism and repeated threats of massive retaliation by Israel. "The Israelis are prepar-ing the ground," a Western military officer said this week. Maybe they won't strike, but they are preparing public opinion for large-scale military action in Lebanon - against Hizbollah, against the Syrians. They want the Syrians to realise who's boss - and they want the Syrians to come to the negotiating table without getting Golan back. Where are all these 'terrorists'? What is all this nonsense about Basque ETA guerrillas? This is the same rubbish the Israelis had the press writing before they invaded in 1982, only then it was Palestinian 'terror camps'."

most of them inspired; of course, by brills that they sent a military delegation to Tel Aviv to find out if there really was a military threat from mass "terrorism" or from the Syrian

army. They discovered, according to an impeccable source, that the Israeli reports were mostly based on an outdated Israeli army logistics department document. In Beirut, US embassy officials summoned UN personnel in the hope of the West of the coming conflat learning whether Hizbollah was gration. Moubarak is said by really threatening a mass "ter-rorist" attack. American intelligence operatives concluded that the reports were rubbish, and that Israel's prime concern - far from being "terrorism" -was that Hizbollah guerrillas were effectively making life impossible for Israel's occupation force in southern Lebanon.

The fact that this occupation only continues because Israel wishes to have a strong hand in any future Israeli-Lebanese peace talks has long been pays the first price.

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu weeps at the funeral of the taoo scttlers murdered near Romallah this week Photograph: Reuters

acknowledged by the UN and more privately, by the United States. The occupation zone (10 per cent of Lebanon) does not protect Israel, a fact amply demonstrated in April when, in response to a booby-trap bomb that killed a Lebanese boy - the work of Egoz, they suspect -Hizbollah fired hundreds of Katyushas across the border. Since April, 24 Lebanese civilians have been wounded by Israeli gunfire - in the same period, no Israeli civilians have been burt by Hizbollah. Israel has lost 18 occupation soldiers since April; Hizbollah lost 20 guerrillas - in other words, a low-intensity war, but nothing to justify the bellicose words the Lebanese have been listening to

et fears are growing in Lehanon, not least because Washington, freed from presidential elections, appears to be as supine as ever in the face Israel's every wish. What Netanyahu announced further Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem - an act that effectively destroyed any hope of final stage talks in the "peace process" - the State Depart-ment did not even condemn the decision, calling it instead -a "complicating factor". An assault on Lebanon is not

likely to elikit any more courageous comment from Washington. The appointment of the faithfully pro-Israeli Madeleine Albright as Secretary of State produced only one comment from Lebanon's president, Elias Hrawi, 'God protect us," he said.

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Across the Arab world, they are saying much the same. Presidents and kings are all warning gration. Moubarak is said by those closest to him to be ma state of deep despair. King Hussein is even reported to have considered breaking off all ties with Israel. President Assad, still politely urging the Americans to intervene, has no illusions. "Will the Israelis continue to defy the will of the whole world while the international community does nothing?" one Syrian paper asked this week. They probably will. And it may well be Lebanon, as usual, that



jo brand's

So convinced were the

Selfridges, having agreed to work there for two hours on behalf of the Terrence Higgins Trust. Selfridges was donating 10 per cent of takings for the evening. I have to confess these things are an ordeal. One has to steel oneself to be an exhibit and to be moved around as required. The usual gaggle of charming photographers had their imaginations working overtime in Santa's grotto as they suggested I drape myself seductively over Santa, who looked as unhappy about the idea as I did. The experience was eased to a great extent by the staff, who whisked me round and let me have the odd sneaky fag behind various displays (Thank you Tony, Paul, Penny and Mark). Other people off the telly were doing similar things ("Go on Jo, give 'im a kiss," as I passed Richard Wilson). But there's no doubt that doing some good does do you good. Everyone in Selfridges was in such a good mood that I can't imagine why they don't do it every day. Well, perhaps I can.

Sitting in a guene of traffic nn the A40 out of London to Oxford is something I do

quite a Int. At the traffic lights, various blokes ply their wares to disgrantled travellers sitting nose to tail. The other day my reverie was interrupted by someone shouting at me, "Oi, Jo!" I turned to see a lorry driver. "Oh Gawd, here we go," I thought - and then realised he was proffering a bunch of roses. With a cheery "Happy Christmas," he passed them to me. What a surprise, because I wasn't even wearing Impulse.

As the Mirror metamorphoses into The Sun, with just the lack of a pair of exposed mammaries to choose between them, it is depressing to realise that the vast majority of people in this country who purchase newspapers - and I use that term loosely - are being challenged intellectually only up to the age of nine. This presumably must be why women are concerned only about Tony Blair's barnet. why no one gives a toss about Europe and why supermodels' opinions on life are valued. The tabloids are a depressing indictment of contemporary British life ... Ob yeah, and they slag me off

all the time too.

A company from America has taken over its first British prison, heralding, one would imagine, a bit of a rush by the Americans to sort out our criminal population, as if they hadn't got enough to do back home. Still, it's not really about that is it, silly me: it's about making profits on the backs of a section of the population many of whom started life without a hope. Not having a hope in England does put you in a slightly better position than not having a hope in America, where the size of the prison population is a testament to the desperation of people who have nothing in the richest society in the world. Still, an American ethos which is all but ingrained in this country anyway will ensure that the

Corrections Corporation of America will be able to drum up plenty of new business,

All those fitness-obsessed people who have tried to force relentless sporting activity down the throats of the rest of us must be very saddened this week to discover that research has shown that young types who take part in non-team sports such as aerobics and tennis are far more likely to become delinquents than those who don't. I have to confess having only been to aerobics once in my life, some 10 or so years ago, and it was the most hideous nightmare I have ever indulged in which seemed to me reminiscent of the atmosphere of those Hitler Youth mass exercises.

At one point we had to do arm exercises to the extended version of "Free Nelson Mandela", and I found myself thinking after some minutes, "I wish they bloody would," if only to release us all from this torment. I never went back and I can say, with my poor timp hand on my heart, that since then I've not even indulged in the teeniest bit of shoplifting.

The ego of some people is breathtaking sometimes. saw a little snippet of news this week about an Essex businessman who has recently paid £30,000 to have a personalised number plate bearing his name, "Nigel". I cannot understand why you would want to drive roo and demonstrate to the rest of the traffic on the road that you are prepared to spend a large fortune on attaching your own "I'm a bit of a big head" name to your vehicle. Spending that amount of money on a minor ego massage, when it could have gone to a million better places, seems obscene to me. I'd like to creep up his drive one night and replace it with a new number plate bearing the legend "Knobhead", for that is what he is.

Spice

They have sold millions in Japan, where 'Wannabe' probably means I love squirrels'

davio aaronovitch

op stars don't win elec-tions. Billy Bragg failed to secure the youth vote for Kinnock and David Bowie's contribution to the triumph of Mrs Thatcher bas not been hought worthy of a published thesis by Professor Anthony King of Essex University. Nor will the interview with the Spice Girls - as featured in this week's Spectator - do very much to save John Major. As was admitted recently by a Labour PR man, celebrity endorse-ment is important only in the sense that "you look sad if you don't bave any."

For those unfamiliar with the pop scene, the Spice Girls are the latest in a long line of tame early teen idols, inheritors of the mantle of the Bay City Rollers, Bros and Take That. Their unique selling proposition is that they are feisty, inyour-face females. They bave, of course, sold millions in Japan, where "Wannabe" (their latest hit) probably means "I love squirrels".

They are also brilliantly marketed as collectables. Each one has a different name and gimroick (Sporty, Scary, Ginger, resh and Baby Spice). It can only be a matter of time before the manufacturers of Barbie or Sindy release all five at £13.99 a sbot and parents find themselves purchasing the set. Hardly will they have done this than the Spice Girls will split up and be replaced by John Thaw and Kevin Whateley singing

cover versions of Elvis Presley. So bloody what? Given all the above, what does it matter that these young women should embrace the cause of low taxation, the House of Lords, the monarchy, Europhobia and free love (a combination that, cerily, suggests an image of Mrs T romping topless on a Californian beach)? And it is hardly surprising that the Spectator, in its current right-wing anarchistic incarnation, should so approve of young women whose approach to life is materialistic, uncluttered by youthful principle and hedonistic.

That is no reason for the rest of

us to lose sleep. Nor is their ignorance in any way unique. When Geri (Ginger Spice) argues against European integration on the basis that Britain was the first to hreak away from the Roman Empire"(Yippee, here come the Dark Ages!), at least she knows that the islands were

once under the sway of Rome. I wouldn't swear that Kiki Dee knows as much. When Geri goes on to assert that "we travel through Europe and all those countries look the same. Only England looks different," we can afford to smile, knowing that a quick visit to Siena followed by a trip to Heligoland ought to sort that one out. The simultaneous belief in the hereditary principle ("earls and dukes are good for tourism") and pure meritocracy suggests an unformed quality in the Girls' thinking.
And yet I bate this interview

and I hate them for giving it and I hate their interviewer - Simon Sebag Montefiore - for enjoying it so much. The one line which sums it up for me is this: "Labour does things for everyone, which might create laziness. This is the pure doctrine of welfare dependency, which I am prepared to accept from those who believe in decent state-funded education, a minimum wage and assistance to return to work (ie those who have an alternative to dependency other than immiseration), but not from those whose sole criticism of Blair is that they do not like his tax policies.

Well, drawls my pal from the letters section, what's the big deal? They bave absorbed the orthodox drivel of the pure market much as you and I (a large hand drops sympatheti-cally on my shoulder) absorbed all that Fabian drivel about redistribution and demand-led -economies: Chill out

Ah yes, I think, but our drivel was better than their drivel. Our drivel was about the need to improve life for people, about moral responsibility, about no man being an island. It was only as we got older that we discovered that it was difficult to do. But their drivel means that they don't want to do it at all, even if it was easy! They don't start idealistic and become realistic; they start cyn-

ical and will become monstrous. Up pops another friend. The polls tell us (should we care to listen) that among no section of the population is Labour's lead as great as among 18-24-yearold women. The Spice Girls are out of tune. Maybe. But there's something in this Tamara Beckwith, have-it-all, tolerant but apathetic, supremely individualistic culture which suggests that (as Cyndi Lauper didn't sing) girls just wanna be shits.

Everyone's whistling Dixie these days

your Con-federate South will rise again!" But the way old southern joke is not altogether a joke any longer. More than 150 years after Robert E Lee's surrender at Appomattox court house, with a man from Arkansas starting his second term in the White House, it looks as if the South won the Civil War after all.

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A third of a century ago, when the civil rights movement was transforming the society of the southern states, everyone assumed that the South was a backward, vestigial region. As a young reporter, I interviewed Martin Luther King and other leaders of the peaceful revolution. In places such as Oxford, Mississippi, and Selma, Alabama, I witnessed the fero-cious violence with which an angry minority of southern whites resisted change. I watched as George Wallace and other southern leaders shouled, "The South says never!"

At the time, everybody northern whites, southern blacks and even most southern whites, as well as foreign jour-nalists like me - took it for granted that the South would have to become more like the rest of the country. In some ways, of course, it did. Legal segregation died. Within years, prosperous blacks were sitting down to lunch and diving into swimming pools with whites. Strict taboos disappeared, unlamented, overnight.

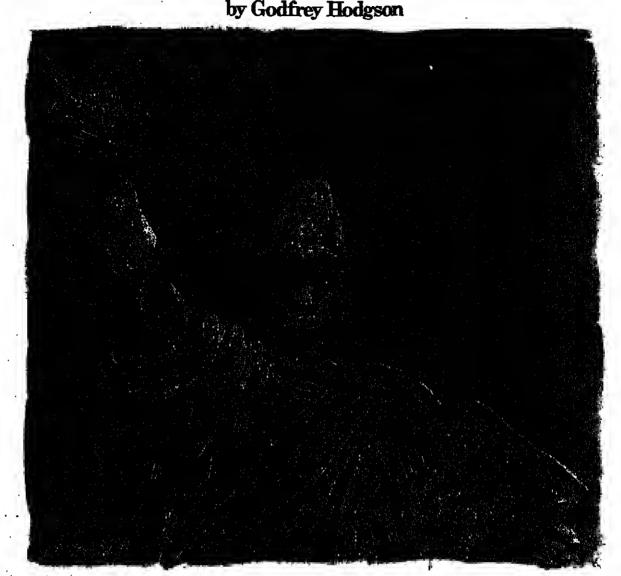
The South got richer, In 1940, President Roosevelt set up a national commission to investigate what he called "the nation's number one economic problem" - the South. Economically, the Deep South was then an under-developed country inside the body of the most developed country on earth. Standards of housing, transport, health and, above all, education were the lowest in the country for whites, music, once the whining music from Arkansas, the Vice-pres- Lincoln for winning the war, and southern Democrats. Now

By the late 1960s, the South was becoming the Sunbelt. Gleaming towers rose in the business districts of southern cities. The spreading suburbs of these and other southern cities. with their handsome houses at low prices, their sunshine and their golf courses, offered a standard of living for executives that was the envy of counterparts in New York or Chicago.

In the 1940s, the II states of the Confederacy had about a quarter of the people of the US. Now they account for a rough third of the national population, and more if you count the southem migrants who thronged to California.

In other ways, however, something quite unexpected has happened. The rest of the US has become more like the

The southernisation of American culture is pervasive. Nashville, not New York's Tin



Something quite unexpected has happened - the rest of the United States has become more like the South

Pan Alley, is now the capital of the South is both visible and white southerners could never reality by a conservative the music business. Country of the southern white working class, is everybody's music now.

Professional sports, espe-cially golf, baseball, football and basketball, which through television have a huge influence on popular culture, are largely dominated by southerners, including southern-born blacks such as Michael Jordan, the ultimate basketball superstar. Southern religion is tri-

umphant. The once-mainstream Protestant denomina- Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists are all losing membership. Southern evangelicals, includ-ing the once-despised Pentecostals, are on the rise, and the Southern Baptist Convention, originally the whites-only church of the defeated South, is growing fast in numbers and power. The religious right is

southern in origins and largely

run by southerners such as Pat

Robertson and Ralph Reed.

Politically, the domination of

Mississippi - Trent Lott (who won) and Thad Cochran. Twenty-five years ago, Mississippi accents sounded like a broken banjo string in political Washington, Now the President of the United States likes to sneak out of the White House to eat catfish and collard greens in what would once have been a contradiction in terms -

a smart southern restaurant. called Sweet Georgia Brown. The grip of the South over national politics goes back, paradoxically, to the civil rights revolution. Before the 1960s, the South was a one-party region. The great majority of

ident from Tennessee. The

Speaker of the House, Newt

Gingrich, comes from Georgia,

and most of his most prominent

licutenants are southerners,

too. When the job of majority

leader of the Senate fell vacant

a few months ago, the two can-

didates for the powerful job

were the two senators from

profound. The President comes forgive the party of Abraham alliance between Republicans freeing the slaves and billeting the Union army in their home towns. So they were "yellow dog" Democrats - they'd vote for a yellow dog, so long as he was a Democrat. Now, from the 1960s on, all

that bas changed. It was the northern Democrats and "the Kennedys" who bad violated the southern way of life. (People forgot that President Johnson, who did most for black rights, was a southerner himself). Black southerners began to vote, and they voted Democrat. The middle classes from the azalea-clad suburbs hegan to vote Republican. Now, 30 years on, the reversal is almost complete. Most white southern males vote Republican and call them-

selves conservatives. The switch has had a dramatic effect on national politics. Until the 1960s, Congress was controlled in theory by a Democratie majority but in

Her book of the year is The Bad

Place by Dean Koontz: "I just

Rising, that the prevailing bit-ter hostility to Washington and to the federal government hard for foreigners to comprehend - has come about at a time when politics are dom-inated by southerners. But this attitude is hardly surprising when you recall that most southerners were taught at their mother's knee to mistrust the federal government and that Washington was the capital of the enemy.

Above all, race, once the subterranean subtext of all politics in the South, now lurks in the background of all American politics. In the North today, as in the South hefure the civil rights upheaval, politi-cians have learned to speak in an elaborate code of racial allusion, When they denounce "welfare queens" driving around in Cadillacs, everyone knows they mean black women. When people talk about crime, they mean largely black crime. And the South has persuaded much of the rest of the country to adopt its barsh code of capital punishment (largely for blacks) and long

The implications for the rest of the world are not easy to predict. The South, as a region that exported oil and cotton. coal and rice and tohacco, was traditionally internationalist. But it was also "nativist" and deeply suspicious of foreigners. The rise of the South will not make the American government more patient with the complicated goings-on of inter-national politics - still less with the un-American, and un-white majority of the United Nations.

A funny thing is happening, though. More than four million blacks left the bad old South to go north. Now, starting with the most highly qualified, some of them are going home. And think I can understand why.

Southern culture may be provincial, but - properly packaged - it bas its universal appeal, as Coca Cola and counchicken and cowboy fashions have all proved. As writers and story-tellers, preachers and politicians, southerners have a vay with words.

Above all, they have the advantage over their fellow Americans that they have experienced both defeat and guilt. They know what it is to fight bravely and still lose. And they know what it is to he wrong, Now the New South is trying to show it bas learned the lesson that the way to win in the long ruu is not to say "Never!" hul to change.

Taking the best out of bestseller

the chair of the Booker panel, Carmen Callil, is telling me her books of the year but I cannot understand a word. When in doubt, bluff, and so I ask for a book's name to be repeated. She bursts out laughing – it's an author. He was on the Booker shortlist! Rohin-

Oh, that Rohinton Mistry. I not only blushed but flushed so red that I feared the fire alarm would go off. Nor am I the only one in this predicament; reading the seasonal best-books-of-theyear lists is always a humbling experience, and the odd flash of guilty ignorance is only to be expected. After all, many of these authors are not bookshop names, much less household. Why is it that the great, the good and the glamorous never seem to pick a bestseller? Perhaps it

is time to share the blushes. This year, readers of The Sunday Tunes, Telegraph and Independent on Sunday were treated to 200 odd titles put forward by some of literati. Just one of them is among those mentioned by Bookwatch director Peter Harland as being in this year's top sellers. Hardbacks that he does mention include Jilly Cooper's
Appassionana, Jeffrey Archer's
The Fourth Estate and John Grisham's Runaway Jury... In paperback, there is Sophie's World, Rehand the Scenes at the Museum, The Horse Whisperer, Stephen King's Green Mile series and John Grisham's The Rain-



Haven't read anything on the literati's best-book lists? Don't worryneither have they. Ann Treneman

examines

the bluffs

and blushes

maker. In non-fiction, look for Jack Chariton's Autobiography and something called True Arimal Tales by Rolf Harris. Delia may outsell them all; and don't forget to add on something to do with the X-Files to most of those lists. That could end up as series of the year, says Mr Harland. So why have the literati taken

the best out of bestseller? "Many pick books that they are pretty confident no one else has read, including themselves," says Jef-frey Archer, secure in the knowledge he had chosen a Le Carré. "Also, it's quite common for critics to support each other." Sure enough, the lists have a mesmerising roundabout quality in terms of names and name-

droppin Archer's is not a name on that roundabout and that must rankle a bit. "Someone is reading, because I'm selling more than ever. For my part, I do choose the books that I like," he says. "Some I choose are so-called low-brow, popular fiction and I'm not at all embarrassed to do so." But what are we to make of his other choice? The Dictionary of Art runs to 34 volumes and costs £4.900. Archer is clearly thrilled with it - " For art buffs like myself, if you can't get John Julius Norwich to come and live you, this is the next best thing. But low brow it isn't.
Taly Cooper seems to have succeenly been struck by an

a Hollywood gofer and an opera history pruner. She's lucky that those prowling the aisles of one of Britain's busiest bookstores do not take their book choices quite so seriously.

Some five million people are served each year by various John Menzies outlets in the south terminal at Gatwick Airport, and Darrell Blake is the man in charge of making sure they find something to buy. He reads

bridge getting a doctorate in Chinese politics, and his holiday thriller. He also mentions Proust. and novelist who has appeared on two "best of" lists. "It's

Critics' choice Last Orders Graham Swift Reading in the Dark Seamus Deane Alias Grace Margaret Atwood Every Man for Himself Beryl Bainbridge The Spirit Level

Seamus Heaney

Sophie's World Jostein Gaarder Behind the Scenes at the Kate Atkinson The Horse Whisperer Nick Evans Green Mile series

Stephen King

John Grisham

The Rainmaker

People's choice

voraciously - so what is his pick of the year? "I would choose 48 important to be as honest as you can and not to give books written by best friends," she says. by James Herbert. It's his first "The problem is baving to non-borror tale. How can choose only a few." I press ber describe it and not give it away? for a popular choice: "I read

Let's just say there is a plague, and not many survivors. A
When I ask shopper Michael thrillers for fun. The latest Michael Dibden was very good." Georgina Sims might agree. Twohey for his book of the year, he quickly puts The Horse Whis-She is found at Menzies in posattack of the interestings. Her peer back on the shelf and starts books of the year are a diary of apologising. "I'm reading a lot of session of a Ruth Rendell and admits to a passion for mystery.

popular novels now as opposed to literature," he says. "My book of the year would probably be like him. He gets a bit waffly, but at other times it gets quite intense and very frightening. I like being frightened when I'm Ken Follett's Night Over Water. It's a very nice piece of work."
Mr Twohey has been at Camreading books." Ms Sims is a midwife from Sutton in Surrey. ing is a Tom Clancy techno-Carmen Callil believes that I Mich'ele Roberts is a poel

have called with an agenda. "I'm not fitting in with your theory, I'm afraid. Perhaps what you're complaining about is the people they ask. They may not have read books such as Popcom by Ben Elton, or Terry Pratchett. I loved both of them but I'm afraid I was asked to give one or two books, not 20.7 There are a few books - and

Popcom is one - that bridge the gap between popular and liter-ary worlds. Anthors include Kate Aikinson, Fay Weldon, Mar-garet Atwood and Beryl Bainbridge. It can work the other way Wild Swans was mentioned first as a book of the year before catching on with the public.

Back at Gatwick, names for "favourite of the year" include Bill Bryson, Wilbur Smith and something titled The Education of a Little Tree by a native American called Forest Carter. A few people say they do not read enough to have a favourite. I wave a "pick of the year" list and ask if this provides any guidance. "I haven't read a book in a while," says one man who is a clinical researcher. "but it's been even longer since I read a book review." And we all

LEFT TO DE "Cristina is six but has the body of a baby. Other little girls have the wrinkled faces of old women. Their matchstick limbs are covered in open sores." Tanya Barron on visiting Hincesn Orphanage Help End The Suffering of Moldova's Forgotten Orphanage Children At Hincesti Orphanage filthy, starving children lie in rows waiting to die. Nearly 25% did last winter. Around 10,000 children are in They eat slops and sloep under threadbare blankets. They have bot water, no heating, un medicine and up to oow no hope. The Europeao Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romaoian

conservative southerners dom-

inate the Republican majority.

while to dispel the dangerous

impression that they are the

party of blacks, minorities and

vomen, the national Democ-

rats have had to move to the

Right, picking southern lead-

ers such as Jimmy Carter, Bill

Clinton and (probably next) Al

southern begemony are immense, both for America

and for the world. The New

York Times's correspondent in

Atlanta, Peier Applebome,

points out in a new book, Dide

The consequences of the

Gore to lead them.

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Your gift today will save lives and bring hope

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Please act now - winter is coming

Lewis makes abrupt exit from Granada

Media Editor

Duncan Lewis, the chief executive of Granada Media Group, has left the company with im-mediate effect, following simmering and at times dramatic disagreements with group chief executive Charles Allen and Gerry Robinson, the chairman.

His departure immediately led to speculation that he would join Cable & Wireless Communications, the new cable television and telephony group which includes Mercury, Mr Lewis's former company. C&W is actively seeking a chief executive for the group. Neither Mr Lewis nor Grana-

da, the hotels-to-television conglomerate, would comment in detail on his departure. In a curt statement, Granada said: "Both Duncan and Granada Group management have recognised an incompatibility of approaches and have therefore ugreed to part on an amicable

it is understood, however, that Mr Lewis felt the main group management, headed by Mr Rohinson and Mr Allen, were not committed enough to the media side of the husiness, and that there had been disagreements about acquisitioo

Mr Lewis left the Granada headquarters on Wednesday, following a meeting with Mr Allen. He has oot returned since. He had been on a rolling one-year contract of £250,000 a year, which is expected to be

bought out. A spokesman for Granada said that Mr Lewis's appointment had been "a brave experiment" that had gooe wroog. Added a company insider: "He didn't know anything about television, and it showed."

Granada denied there had been any hasic disagreement over strategy. "In a company such as this, there has to be good relations between group and the chief executives of the divisions," the spokesman said.
"For some time, it was clear

things were not going well."
Added a senior broadcasting executive within the group: televisioo requires creativity, and the ability to get along with creative people.

It is understood that Granada's senior executives were also concerned about Mr Lewis's management style, which some



'Insufficiently committed to media': Charles Allen

have styled too "showy". As well, he is believed to have spent as much as £500,000 on developing strategy papers for the media group, an amount that was viewed at head office as ex-

There were suggestions last night that Mr Lewis had wanted to invest aggressively, and had looked at joint venture production in the US. City-TV stations in Britain and other operations in continental Europe. To date, most of Granada's TV investments have been confined to the ITV sector.

Some of his past colleagues have said Mr Lewis was "mercurial" and lacked focus. At Granada, his short tenure was marked by several rows with with Mr Rohinson and Mr Allen, who used to run the television business before rising to chief executive.

Mr Allen, the dour Scot who

acts as the details man to Gerry Robinsoo's more flamboyant strategist, was understood to have been particularly uncom-fortable with Mr Lewis. Granada declined to comment on suggestions that the two had a furious row on the day Mr

Lewis left the building. Mr Lewis, 45, moved from BT to Cable & Wireless, where he rose to become chief executive of Mercury, a job he held for only nine mooths. His departure was said to have followed disagreements with management

He had been a surprise choice for the joh at Granada, where he oversaw the company's teleision interests. Granada owns the Granada and London Weekend Television franchises, 27 per cent of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, and 60 per cent of Granada Sky Broadcasting, a joint satellite TV joint venture with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB.

Mr Lewis' replacement is Steve Morrison, a long-serving Granada executive, who became managing director of Granada Media Group earlier this year when the operations ere restructured.

"Morrison is a far more logical choice for a company like Granada," a media analysi said. At the time of his appointment, Mr Lewis said he would bring his knowledge of telecommunications to the media busioess, in recognition of greater convergence in the sector between "content" and "carriage".



Heading for pastures new: The industry is betting that Duncan Lewis could be planning

Lang gives Northern green light

Business Correspondent

Ian Lang. President of the Board of Irade, yesterday gave a green light to a final wave of takeover bids for the few remaining independent regional electricity companies, by deciding not to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission the £782m hostile bid by US-owned CE Electric for Northern Electric.

The decision wrong-footed several City analysts who had predicted an MMC investiga-tion and sent shares in all five remaining independent RECs soaring. Northern's share price jumped by almost 7 per cent, from 602-5p to 642p, just short of CE Electric's raised 650p allcash offer.

Shares in the three remaining independent RECs which are not subject to takeover bids also surged ahead, with London Electricity rising 28p to 679.5p, Southern Electric adding 27p to 774.5p and Yorkshire Electricity jumping by 13.5p to 756p.

The decision also makes gov-

ernment approval of the agreed £1.3bn takeover hid by US utility Dominion Resources for East Midlands Electricity almost certain. Sources said it would be incoocervable that Mr Lang would refer the Dominion bid to the MMC after having giv-en the go-ahead for the bid for Northern. East Midland's shares were up 30p to 656.5p, compared with Dominion's

cash offer of 670p.

Some leading City investors had also expected an MMC referral on the basis of recent surprise decisions by Mr Lang, including his ruling blocking bids for South West Water by rival water companies.

There was speculation last night that other US utilities industry facing on complete. carve-up before the general election. One analyst suggested Entergy, the New Orleans utility, could renew exploratory discussions with London Elec-

Yorkshire Electricity last night denied it had received any bid approaches. A spokesman said: "We are not in any talks with anybody. We've been asked the same question for the past 18 months and there's always

been the same answer." Mr Lang's announcement said the DTI had been given specific assurances by CE Electric that it would maintain Northern's "financial and management resources", reflecting concerns expressed by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator. CalEnergy,

the US power generator which is CE Electric's biggest shareholders, has dehts of around \$2bn (£1.2bn) and has been froquently quizzed about its debt

Northern's chances of fending off the hid were helped yes-terday as another leading City investor came out in support of the company's existing man-agement, led by chairman David Morris, Foreign & Colonial which holds 1.5 per cent of Northern shares, gave the board its backing. David Manning, and F&C director, explained "We believe that the current back" for Northern falls well short of a fair value for the company. Northern has delivered on all its promises to date and we feel we should support them in reject-

ing the final offer."

The Prudeotial, Northern's higgest shareholder, also pledged to continue supporting the existing management, having raised its stake in the com-

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pany slightly this week to 11.35 per cent. A spokesman explained: "Our decision was based on our perception of value in the company and this was clearly unaffected by the an-

Northern also claimed that would make bids for RECs . another big, but unnamed inearly in the new year, with the . yestor with more than 2 per cent of the company was throwing its weight behind management.

David Sokol, chief executive of CalEnergy, is thought to be meeting the Prudeotial oo Monday in a final lobbying campaign before the Friday 20 December deadline. Mr Sokol insisted his offer remained fair, despite the rise in Northern's share price: "If our offer fails theo Northern's shares will fore we launched the bid."

One obstacle could be Northem's vocal band of small shareholders which controls a total of some 21 per cent of the com

Chris Foote Wood from the Northern Small Shareholders Association said he would fight to the bitter end to keep Northern independent

Banks Target

Rolls 'confident' of disposing of Parsons plant

Chris Godsmark

Rolls-Royce yesterday insisted it remained confident of selling its Parsons steam turbine business despite announcing up to 800 redundancies at the plant.

In what the company described as a "precautionary statement", it said around 400 jobs would go in late January or early Fehruary as work at the factory on North Tyneside dries up. A further 400 staff could be companies interested in buying not swiftly concluded.

Unions said Parsons' 1,500 remaining employees were shocked by the news, which had come after the management had been giving the workforce more optimistic signals about the continuing discussions with outside bidders

Barney McGill, the works remesentative for the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said: "The workers here were stunned by the announcement. In the runup to Christmas this is a severe blow for those involved and the scale of the redundancies were definitely unexpected. However, we've come a long way ment by Rolls-Royce back in

optimistic that the company can be sold than a few weeks ago."

Rolls had giveo all the staff protective redundancy notices early last month to comply with empkyment law which stipulates that workers must be given 90 days' notice before losing their jobs.

Sioce the decision to sell or close Parsons the plant has oot been hidding for new orders. One reason for the job cuts is that work has been coming to laid off if negotiations with a close on one of the last big contracts, to make turbines for all or part of the operation are a 110 megawatt gas-fired power station under construction in Godavari in India.

It also emerged that a much higger Indian contract, to huild a huge coal-fired statioo at Balagarh, had fallen through. Rolls said it had withdrawn from bidding for the work after deciding to leave the heavy power generation business.

Last eight the compacy insisted it remained "fairly con-fident" that it could self Parsons. Rolls-Royce has made provisions of £250m for the possible closure of the business, along with a hoiler plant at Rolls-Royce International Combustion in Derby which employs 900. But experts have cast doubt on the chances of selling Parsons in an industry cent of William Cook's profits which has buge overcapacity.

£1m payout for Wickes directors

do-it-yourself retailer whose former bosses are being investigated for fraud, have been awarded salary and options package valued at more than film each.

Wickes has also spent more than £10m in fees to professional advisors in the last six months since discovering past profits linked to supplier rebates had been overstated by £51m. The details are contained in

document sent yesterday to Wickes' shareholders urging them to accept a deeply dis-counted £53.2m rescue rights issue or risk the crisis-hit company going into receivership. Of particular interest are provisions for "golden parachute" payments if Wickes loses its in-

a sitting duck for a £200m nual salary of £190,000.

takeover. Bill Grimsey, who was an pointed chief executive last month, stands to earn a bonus of £230,000 if Wickes is taken over by August 1997 or his employment is terminated within a year of such an event. Bill-Hoskins, Wickes' finance director, will get £200,000 under a sim-

ilar arrangement. The document also shows that Mr Grimsey received a special payment of £115,000 "in recognition of the exceptional services he has provided to the group since July 1996". Mr Hoskins got £100,000 for his

dependence. Analysts say Wick-rolling contract paying £230,000 reduction and new banking es has beeo so weakened by the discovery of the serious actionace director of Wickes, the counting irregularities that it is considered by the conside options worth three times his an-

> The exercise price of both sets of options is performance-related, but it could be set at the shares' closing price on the day before a bid is made for Wickes. Trading in Wickes' shares was suspended at 69p in June after

the accounting scam came to light, forcing the resignation of £im-a-year chairman Henry Sweetbaum. Seven other directors have since left.

Dealings in the company's shares will resume on 7 January if shareholders approve a onefor-one rights issue, which has been fully underwritten by SBC

cluding a standard underwriting commission of 2 per cent equal to £1.35m. It has also paid £6.6m in fees to lawyers, accountants and auditors. Some £5m will be split be-

tween City law firm Linklaters

& Paines and accountancy firm

Price Waterhouse, who led an internal inquiry into Wickes' Last month the Metropolitan Police and Serious Fraud Office negan a formal investigation into unnamed former Wickes' directors. Wickes does not expect

the inquiry to result in any liability for the group. Wickes said the total pay bill

cheaper euro Warburg, at the equivalent of 15p for directors in the year to recent efforts. Mr Grimsey is on a one-year. a share, a £100m capital December 1995 was £3.85m. payment system Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Triplex Lloyd castigates Cook's salary

Patrick Tooher

based engineer hidding £58m for steel castings group William Cook, yesterday launched a withering personal attack on Andrew Cook, its controversial chairman and chief executive. In a letter to Cook's share-holders. Triplex seized on Mr Cook's five-year rolling contract,

cent of William Cook's profits.

Triplex Lloyd, the Midlandswhich has seen him earn more than £500,000, or up to 11 per Triplex highlighted Mr

"Andrew Cook's remuneration package has performed much better than your company's share price," said Graham Lockyer, Triplex's chief execu-tive. Poor corporate gover-nance at William Cook is so extreme that it is not an esoteric debate. It is a monetary issue which has had, and without Triplex Lloyd's offer will contime to have, an adverse impact on shareholder value."

and a Land Rover Discovery, board for 41 years. Mr Cook both of which can be replaced every two years by a new car of the same model. Mr Cook is also the only director employed by William

Cook and is entitled to retire on a full pension at the age of 55. William Cook has no finance director on its board. The other four directors are all engaged as self-employed consultants. Mr Lockyer pointed out that of the two non-executive di-

who recently described his £1.5m "golden parachute" as a pittance", has promised to sharpen up his corporate governance act by announcin plans to split the role of chair man and chief executive and to appoint at least one new nonexecutive director if the Triplex Lloyd bid lapses.
William Cook is expected

next week to quantify its forecast of a "substantial improvement" in profits for the year to Cook's service contract, which rectors, one is 71 and the othentitles him to a Beotley Turbo er, aged 83, has sat oo Cook's March 1997.

announced plans yesterday for a payments system in the oew euros that will provide a cutprice alternative to the controversial Target clearing system. Target has been at the centre of a hlazing row during the preparations for mooetary union, because France and Germany want the system to dis-

criminate against banks from countries that stay out of the sin-Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, has been campaigning for hetter treat-ment for British banks that use Target if the UK does stay out of EMU. But he made clear in

A group of international banks

September that if the obstacles to using Target to process payments between banks are too great there will be alternatives The ECU Banking Association, which represents 49 of the world's largest banks including Deutsche Bank and Union Bank of Switzerland, said it had decided at a meeting in Luxembourg, chaired by Ashley

Dowson of Barciays Bank, to

proceed with what it called a

truly European cross-border

payment system for EMU". The cost will be less than one euro per payment compared with five to seven euros which the EBA claimed would he the

cost for Target. A report prepared for the Luxembonrg meeting said the EBA system should be capable of reaching a market share of 30 per cent, half as much again as Target.

A third system in which banks

would use correspondent banks (in other countries to process their payments was expected to reach a similar market share to Target of 20 per cent. The EBA claimed its new sys tem, which will be developed

from an existing computerised clearing system for ecus, would be complementary to Target. It could become the main payment system for cross-border commercial and financial payments in Euros, while Target was designed for monetary policy transactions and very

high value or urgent wholesale payments. The difference between the two systems, and the main rea-son the FBA's is cheaper, is that Target settles transactions instantly, eliminating the risk that a failure of one bank could have

a knock-on effect on others. The EBA system makes transfers of money within one day, so there could be tremendons disruption if a bank fails during the hours a transaction is waiting to be completed within the system. The Bank of England's greatest concern in the row over Target is that it will discourage commercial banks from using the safest system.

July and we are prohably more STOCK MARKETS 6110 -F M T W T Day's change Change (%) (336 alg) +820 +0.2 +12.70 FTSE SmallCap 2138.67 FTSE All-Share 1955.25 +411 +02 -98 61 2050t 20 -67.18Hong Kong +6 03

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Don't hold your breath over Guinness report

So finally, finally, after all these years, the Department of Trade and Industry is to publish its report on the Guinner. is to publish its report on the Guinness affair. It might actually do so as early as next week, although the DTI was yesterday casting doubt on whether it could be ready quite so soon. The spark for this belated little act of public service is next Tuesday's ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on whether Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, was unfairly tried over the Guinness shares fraud.

Whatever the judges have to say on the matter, the DTI takes the view that it is now free to publish the results of its 10-year investigation of how Guinness illegally won control of Distillers in the mid-1980s. Conspiracy theorists will believe the timing is dictated by the Government's desire to deflect attention from what is all too likely to be another slap in the face for British justice from the European courts. Europe might wish to say, or at least imply, that Mr Saunders and others didn't get a fair trial, but this report will claim in the strongest possible language that he is as guilty as sin. The Serious Fraud Office will fight tooth and nail to uphold the Guinness convictions, whatever the European

I've followed the various twists and turns in the Guinness affair pretty closely over the years, hut unfortunately I haven't yet been able to get my hands on a copy of the final sonably well informed gossip and an earli-er unpublished draft it is possible to surmise

roughly what's in it. Don't bold your hreath. Ten years after the event and with numerous criminal and civil trials to sift the evidence, there isn't a great deal the inspectors can say which is genuinely new about this affair. The Guinness scandal has passed into history and that's what the report is - a his-tory book. There are no significant changes in the law, corporate governance or City practice the inspectors can recommend, for the lessons have been largely learnt and generally acted upon, in so far as they ever

It is, of course, the case that the inspectors can still pass judgement on individuals and organisations still alive and kicking - and they will - but it isn't going to surprise anyone to learn that Mr Saunders is a crook or that Morgan Grenfell, his City advisers at the time, disregarded accepted rules and

From what I hear about this report, however, the inspectors have missed an opportunity. In their analysis, evidence and judgement, they mirror very closely the prosecution case aired in the various criminal proceedings. Broadly, this attempts to pin blame for the scandal on a small group of key people and to varying degrees on the organisations they represented

Saunders they conspired one with another illegally to support the Guinness share price and that this was kept secret not only from the markets (for the trick would not have worked if everyone had known the share price was being artificially supported), hut also everybody else at Guinness and its profes-sional advisers. Ergo these are the culpable ones and everyone else - lawyers, accountants, City advisers and the like - is in the clear. Indeed the case goes rather further

than that, for to work properly - as it plain-ly did in the first Guinness trial - it needs you to believe that no one outside this inner core had any conception of what was going on. Moreover, they would have heen profoundly shocked and tried to stop it had they known. I've never believed this to be the full picture. It is largely true but the real story is more

complicated - that the Guinness affair took place against a well established hackdrop of cavalier practice and behaviour that encouraged the main protagonists into believing that if this was not quite the accepted way of doing things it was common enough at least to be tolerated. In some City firms practice of this sort was endemic, going unchecked either by internal controls or out-

side regulators. I'm not saying here that any of the professionals caught up in the Guinness affair

The central allegation is that led by Mr knew what was going on or even that they saunders they conspired one with another should have been officiously running around the place saying there's something wrong here and we are going to find out about it. No one ever starts in these situations from the point of view that their client is a crook nor is it their job to act as watchdogs over the activities of others.

All the same, it seems astonishing that no body suspected what was going on. At the very least they should have been more vigorous in their approach. In the cut and thrust of a contested takeover an anything goes culture rapidly takes hold. It is reasonable to expect established practitioners in these matters to keep things in check. Even after DTI inspectors were sent into Guinness the at-titude among some remained one of relaxed complascency right up to the moment when the full enormity of the scandal emerged. Then everyone ran for cover.

The Ernest Saunders version of events, that all these professionals knew what was going on and conspired to pin the whole saga on him, is absurd. But with so many highly paid, top-drawer names around the table to advise and guide him, it is hard to understand how this could have been allowed to happen, even now, ten years after the event. There won't be much of this in the DTI report, however. The possibility that the whole thing might have been avoided had a more vigorous and professional approach

been adopted is simply not addressed. This is a shame for it might have led to a more rounded and illuminating report. The inspectors were in a position to tackle the question of whether the night watchman was asleep on the job. They appear to have de-

Nobody should be too surprised by the spectacle of Duncan Lewis flouncing out of his Granada TV joh so soon after joining. Incompatability seems to be his middle name. He did much the same thing when he was at Cable & Wireless's Mercury Communications subsidiary. He lasted barely more than a year there too. Gerry Rohinson and Charles Allen are hard task masters, applying a vigorous regime of management control and accountability throughout the Granada empire. In never seemed very likely that they would be able to work happily with Mr Lewis.

He'll claim that he was never allowed the money or flexibility to do what he wanted with Granada's television interests. They'll claim he couldn't run a That's what happens when you get a difference of approach in business. The real problem, I suspect, is that Mr Lewis wants to be his own boss. He wasn't, either at Mercury or Granada. Mr Lewis is the type of executive who needs to be ruuning his own show.

Lopez stole GM secrets, court told

Imre Karacs

The former head of purchasing at General Motors, Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, systematically stole trade secrets from the company as part of a premeditated act hatched several months hefore he jumped ip for Volkswagen, German

osecutors claimed vesterday. The allegations came as Mr Lopez was formally indicted on charges of industrial espionage hy the prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, near Frankfurt.

Charged alongside Mr Lopez were three other former GM excentives who defected to VW with him three and a half years the prosecutors allege. Jorge Alvarez and Rosario Pi-

However, the prosecutors said that their investigation had found no evidence that VW's chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, or anyone else from the German car maker was involved in the alleged espionage. Gerhard Andres, the chief public prosecutor, said more serious charges of fraud were not filed because no measurable amount of financial damage to GM cuuld be determined.

But referring to Mr Lopez wand the uther indicted executives, he said: "The accused planned tu acquire husiness

documents from the research, planning, production, and purchasing departments with a view toward their planned joint move to VW." This had been premeditated and planned months ahead.

Mr Lopez, head of purchasing for GM's European subsidiary Opel had revolutionised the car maker's relationship with suppliers, preparing the ground for cheaper produc-

a promotion, which he gratefully accepted. A few days later, took the first plane to Germany.

At VW headquarters in

set themselves up in offices enveloped in a buhhle of hi-tech security. Their mission was to develop the concept for an assembly plant codenamed "B" in the Spanish Basque country.

The factory would be the embodiment of all Lopez prin-

He was first approached by Mr Piech in November 1992. Following their meeting, Mr

ago - Jose Manuel Gutterrez. - In March 1993 Mr Lopez in- be stotled together from "modi" Jorge Alvarez and Rosario Pi- "formed GM that he was leav- ules", rather than smaller come. ing, whereupon be was offered however, Mr Piech trumped the counter-offer, and Mr Lopez this time handed GM his final letter of resignation and

Wolfsburg, the GM defectors



Lopez and three of his closest yesterday of a criminal indictment charging the former VW executive José Ignacio Lopez and three associates with colleagues began rifling through consolicacy to steal trade secrets when they defected from General Motors in 1993

Photograph: Herbert Proepper/AP

ciples combined cars would ponents as before, and fitted on the assembly line largely by workers employed by outside

contractors at cheaper rates Only one such factory existed elsewhere in the world, and even then only in blueprint form: the hush-hush "Plant X" designed by GM and also destined for northern Spain. Those are the very plans that Mr

Lopez is said to have stolen. In addition to these plans the Darmstadt prosecutors claim that the four accused also pinched suppliers' price lists, cost information on virtually the entire GM-Opel range in Eu-

rope, and documents outlining GM's cost-cutting strategy for

If convicted, Mr Lopez could face a five-year prison term, though as a first offender he would probably escape with a

Lawyers acting for Mr Lopez challenged the prosecutors' findings, saying they had mistaken documents that GM had previously made public for company secrets and that many of their witnesses were not credihle. Jurgen Taschke and Eberhard Wahle, representing Mr Lopez, said the charges would not stand up in court and they would seek to have them dis-

Key dates in the Lopez affair

1980 - Si Lopez joins GM Spein Charles and Trace Track Lopez appointed Head of Purchasing at Opel Lopez has first meeting with Ferdinand Piech, chairman of VW Lopez Joins VW as Head of Purchasing, then guits to

become president of GM North America, which he then quits after a few days to rejoin VW Opel starts legal action against Lopez for industrial

GM files civil suit in America against VW for oriminal VW sues GM for defamation US judge in Detroit rules GM can pursue clalm

for damages Lopez resigns from VW, but is rehired immediately as a consultant Looez and three other former executives formally

indicted by German prosecutors

Swiss operator picks BT as partner

British Telecom yesterday further strengthened its network of European alliances after it was selected as one of the international partners for Switerland's second licenced telecoms operator Newtelco. BT and Tele Danmark will acquire a significant minority stake in Newtelco, which was set up carlier this year by Swiss Federal Railways. Union Bank of Switerland and Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, the country's largest retailer.

Foster's settles forex action

Foster's Brewing Group of Australia has agreed to settle its civil action over alleged fraudulent foreign exchange deals against John Elliott, the former chief executive, and others. The others that are covered by the settlement are former executives Peter Scanlon, Ken Biggins and Ken Jarrett, the Bank of New Zealand and auditor Price Waterhouse. "The terms of the settlement ... remain confidential," said Foster's, which had sued Messrs Elliott, Scanlon and Biggins in a hid to recover A\$66.5m (£32m) allegedly lost in fraudulent foreign exchange transactions in 1988.

Toad motors towards full listing

Toad, the car gadgets group founded by Chris Evans, the biotechnology tycoon, is tapping the market for £7.1m in a five-for-nine open offer at 80p, and moving to a full listing. The company, currently quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, said it wanted to spend £1.35m opening another five or six depots to add to the existing 17. Interim losses deepened from £801,000 to £2.46m. hut Toad is forecasting profits in the year to March 1998.

Burnfield to pay £24m for Ling

Burnfield has reached agreement to acquire Ling Dynamic Systems Limited for £24m. Ling designs and makes vibration testing equipment used by the aerospace, electronics and automotive in-dustries. The acquisition will be financed mainly by a £20.3m, seven-for-10 rights issue at 90p per share. Ling made pre-tax profits of £2.3m in the year ended 31 July. Burnfield forecasts operating profit for the year ending 31 December will be not less than £3.5m.

John Lewis sales ahead 13 per cent

John Lewis Partnership said total sales for the 19 weeks to 7 December were 11 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Sales in John Lewis department stores were 12.9 per cent ahead while sales in Waitrose supermarkets showed a 11 per cent increase.

Ladbroke solves Hilton dispute

Ladbroke has reached an out-of-court settlement in a rent review dispute with the landlord of the Paris Hilton. The parties have been in litigation over the level of rent payable on the hotel since 1992. Under the settlement the annual charge for 1996 and each year to 2008 will be Fr47m (£5.5m), indexed annually for inflation. Separately, Ladbroke said it has sold the 400-room Washington Vista Hotel in Washington DC for \$47m (£28m), to Interstate Hotels.

Asda launches unisex perfume

Asda claimed in was the first supermarket to enter the premium perfume market vesterday when it launched its first fragrance, George 1. The unisex scent is priced at £9.99, in a bid to under-cut rivals such as Calvin Kline's CK.

Bunzl in talks to buy Filtrona

Bunzl is in discussions regarding the possible cash purchase of the bonded fibres husiness of American Filtrona, which is listed on Nasdaq. The bonded fibres business, which had sales of \$62.9m (£38m) and made operating profits of \$7.3m in 1995, manufactures and sells cigarette filters and ink reservoirs.

Halifax raises mortgage rate

Banking Correspondent

Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender in the UK, finally raised its standard variable mortgage rate to 7.25 per cent vesterday, two weeks after its rivals acted on the quarter percentage point rise in base rates announced in October.

The move will allow the society to raise its savings rates in the new year when competition tu ways savers is expected to hot np when several leading huilding societies plan to convert to banks, unleashing a £17bn

Alliance & Leicester was the first of the big societies to increase mortgage rates earlier this month. But Halifax decided to hold off until this week's monthly meeting between the Chan-cellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England before instigating its first

The move comes amid growing evidence that the housing market is staging a recovery and shows the need to increase the rates on offer to savers, who have lost out in the race among huilding societies and hanks to win mortgage business.

the interests of our borrowers and savers whilst continuing to remain competitive in the market. The recovery in the housing market continues and over the last two years borrowers have henefited from low interest rates and low mortgage payments," said Mike Blackrate rise since Fehruary 1995.

burn, chief executive of Halifax. The rate rise by Halifax al-lowed Nationwide, the largest remaining building society, to yesterday increase its standard variable mortgage rates by a quarter of a point to 6.99 per cent — which is still a quarter of a point below that offered by the large lenders.

Magnus Grimond

Stock market jitters hammered another two new issues yesterday when Oxford Binmedica shares opened at less than half their placing price and it emerged that Fountain Forestry was cutting by 50 per cent the amount being raised from its own Alternative Investment Market flotation.

Oxford, a biotechnology group backed by Oxford University, saw its shares start dealings on AIM at just 42.5p yesterday morning, some 52 per cent below the 88p at which the shares were priced in October.

They ended slightly up at 47.5p. Sentiment took a dive earlier this week when it was revealed that the two main underwriters, Stockton Trading, a Bahamianregistered company, and Kaj Kjellquist, a private Swedish investor, had withdrawn their combined £5m commitment to underwrite the £6.15m then being raised. The move forced the company to delay first dealings until yesterday and reduce the amount being raised to £5m, which Oxford said was its

Oxford Biomedia's début flops

the "appalling" opening price. The flop is the latest in a list of disappointing biotechnology flotations. Earlier this year, Cambrio abandoned plans to float, and Xenova has been minimum working capital re-quirement, although it had originally sought up to £11m. Percy Lomax of sponsoring

forced to cut the amount being raised by £2.4m to £22.6m. The news came as Fountain Forestry, which manages \$0,000 hectares of forest and clears leaves from railway lines, said its placing would raise £2.25m. half the original target of £4.5m.

hrokers Teather & Greenwood

said the company was reserving

its right to take legal action

against the underwriters, whose

actions were the main cause of

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market report/shares

Utilities burn bright in gloom of another grey Friday FTSE 100 3972.4 -18:3 4358.3 -21.2 1973.9 -9.2 SEAQ VOLUME 624.6m shares

Share spotlight

31,246 bargains

to counter another grey Friday mood of confusion and

uncertainty.
Such is the nervous state of the stock market following US banking chief Alan Greenspan's cautionary comments that a sharp overnight fall in New York sent shares spinning

lined the fragility of the market. After more than a year of largely ignoring Wall Street's seemingly relentless progress, shares are now tossing and turning at the slightest sign of a transatlantic correction.

With big profits to be taken on both sides of the Atlantic market-makers are nervous that a selling rush could sud-denly materialise. And, consequently, they are quick to mark down prices at the mer-

Utilities made a valiant attempt the 13th, market-makers could not resist the temptation to follow New York's example when trading started yesterday.

At one time Footsie was down 56.8 points and all the old worries of corrections and crashes were again uppermost in many minds. But, not for the first time, it was all a big mistake. The Dow Jones Average actually moved ahead and in the scramble to acknowledge the feared reckoning had once again been postponed Footsie had cut its decline to 18.3

points to 3,972.4 by the close. Utilities rose above such mundane influences as feared corrections, helped by the not unexpected Whitehall clearance of the hostile CE Electric of the US bid for Northern Electricity. Northern, which remains opposed to the £665m offer, jumped 39.5p to 642p compared with the CE offer of

MARKET REPORT

stock market reporter of the year gained 30p to 656.5p on the be-lief its agreed offer from the US Dominion Resources will also be given a rare Whitehall

The remaining "unat-tached" electricities also glowed with London, up 28p at 679.5p, Southern 27p to 774.5p and Yorkshire 13.5p to 756p.

Some of the waters were drawn into the speculation of further utility bids. Anglian rose 9p to 556.5p and United Utilities 4p to 575.5p. South West Water improved 12p to

DEREK PAIN

on the shares following its talks with BT, up 3.5p to 390.5p. The telephone giant is, with a Danish group, planning a move into Switzerland.

Commercial Union found itself back in the takeover arena as a trade of 250,000 shares which went through at 652p resurrected takeover speculation. The deal, above the then market price, clearly put the market on edge and in a late flurry the shares jumped

21p to 665p. A continental strike remain the favoured option with the German Allianz group never far from the reckoning.

would offer terms below the builders with Barratt Devel-

market price.
Obscure AND International opments off 5.5p to 245p.

Taylor Nelson, the market Publishers achieved the day's research group, provided the biggest gain, up 59 per cent to 185p. A Dutch electronic pub-lisher, it arrived on AIM in August at 70p. Oxford Uni-versity Press is a substantial research group, provided the Friday profit-warning hit. The shares fell 8.25p to 42p after the company said profit would not be up to expectations.

Matthew Clark, the cider group removed from the supporting LTSE 250 index shareholder, with around 25 per cent. The shares are a narrow porting FISE 250 index, ended 10.5p down at 260p, a new low. RJB Mining continued to market and there appeared to

be only one modest trade. Lanica Trust, with mail orrally from its savage mauling after the BZW downgrading. der ambitions, was another high flyer, up 40p to 905p. The shares have climbed from 50p adding 27p to 425p
Oxford Biomedica's delayed since August.
Zotefoams, the chemical début was a withering disaster.

against an 88p placing the shares opened at 42.5p, closgroup, held at 212.5p as ABN ing at 47.5p. Yeoman, a hi-tech group held back to accommo-Amro Hoare Govett said the alyst Nicola Kerslake trimmed date late applications fared better but even so failed to her profits forecast by 5 per cent to £6.7m because of stereven hold its 175p placing, ling's strength and higher

plastic group, stretched to another peak, up 2.5p to 122.5p, as profit expectations were lifted. On Wednesday the company announced a £6m contract to supply engineering plant to the Philippines. Other developments are likely. The group achieved interim profits of £650,000 and a close follower of the company, Nick Brock of stockbroker Walker Crips Weddle Beck, believes profits for the year to March will emerge at more than £1.4m. The shares were down to 19p when Tex was in the red in the early 1990's.

Gomar are othing orante

| Weilington Market Co, started in 1,244 and claiming to be Britain's oldest company, is hoping to raise £1m through an open offer and preference conversion. The two class of shares are 80p on Ofex, the rights price is 55p.

Orange, the mobile phone group, added another 2.5p to 181p as Barclays de Zoete Wedd hung a 240p target price ending at 170.5p.
Clubpartners, a golf group, fell 4p to 7.5p after repeating that any of the circling bidders spending on marketing. Next est hint of any selling pressure. No doubt noting the alleged year's prediction is £8m. The shares were 339p in March. More building society rate increases eroded some of the unlucky implications of Friday Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's di fax machine, so small it can fit so small it Can Tit anywhere

Canon control of the control of the



INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNION: Argentina forwards set to provide England's keen young talent with another harsh lesson

Gomarsall taking nothing for granted

England's new scrum-half must adjust to international rugby extremely quickly. If he does not he knows that he will be replaced. Chris Hewett spoke to him

'It's wonderful

to play in

front of such

a fantastic

ball-winning

front five

two debut tries and two interoational coaches on his back; for Andy Gomarsall, life is a double-edged sword, full of sudden contradictions and wift reversals of fortune. His career at the top level may be in its infancy, but he has already experienced the proverbial slings and arrows.

It is just as well, then, that England's new scrum-half is hlessed with precisely the sort of psychological profile that enables him to ride the roller-coaster of Test rugby without freezing on the uphill pulls or feeling queasy on the steep descents. Take the ing more than I auticipated. I boundless commitment of a suspected beforehand that they Dewi Morris, the resilience of a would target me - good teams
Richard Hill tend to focus

and the sheer ioie de vivre of a Rupert Moon and you have something ap-proaching the engagingly spirfron Durham.

His first taste of Test action as pure nectar: Gomarsall

22 years old and as keen as you like, gave the Italian back row such unmitigated hell at Twickenham last month that his brace of tries was scant reward for a display of prodigious energy. Then came the collision with the New Zealand Barbarians a fortnight ago. Different kettle of fish, dif-

Gomarsall took a fair degree of stick for his curate's egg el-fort against Justin Marshall, the hrilliaot Canterbury halfback whose state-of-the-art performances in the No 9 shirt had been central to New Zealand's tumultuous triumph in South John Hart, the All Black coach,

ANDREW BALDOCK

Kevin Bowring, the Welsh

coach, is anxious for a more

physical approach from his for-

wards, and he believes the new

caps from Pontypridd, Dale

McIntosh and Mark Rowley.

can ruffle South Africa by show-

it will take an immense team

effort at Cardiff Arms Park to-

They may succeed in that but

ing them no respect.

and when Jack Rowell, his English counterpart, openly admitted this week that Kyran Bracken had been close to a recall for this afternoon's final pre-Christmas outing against Argentina, a lesser competitor might easily have disappeared into his shell.

Not Gomarsall. "I certainly don't think I played well against the New Zealanders, but I don't think I'd played that badly either," he said, full of beans after another training session at Twickenham. "That was one tough game against an out-

> like myself to see if we are up to it - and subsequent events bore me out. They were match and, of course, it took some handling. "It was al-

ways going to be difficult to emulate what happened against Italy. The expectations were high and while I have no problems with that - I have hig expectations of myself - every time I touch the ball against the New Zealanders their back row lets me know they were around. I learned a heck of a lot in the space of that 80 minutes."

If Gomarsall, a gifted hockey player, is in the habit of putting his representative shirts on the walls, he will soon need a house the size of an art gallery. He now has a comprehensive, not to say priceless collection, having turned out for

Pontypridd players never

show respect for the opposition

and always go on the field to give the other side a torrid

time." Bowring said.

tralia a fortnight ago.



in 1992), England Students, the Under-21s, the Emerging Players and England A before landing that treasured first cap. When Rowell talks about the systematic identification and velopment of ralent, one of his favourite conversational hobby horses, he must be tempted to hold up his new

scrum-half as a model. Ten years ago, five even, that sort of background would have guaranteed Gomarsall a long run in the oational side, but England's increasingly methodical approach to squadhuilding means that nothing Africa back in the summer. the London Division and the can be taken for granted any Barbarians as well as England longer. Bracken, revitalised vironment keeps him on the Talking of tight forwards. Go-marsall is more than prepared to thought Gomarsall had been Schools 18 Group (who he led since his move from Bristol to straight and narrow. With two of marsall is perfectly aware that he collect another house or three in "pretty well exposed out there" to a first Grand Slam in 11 years Saracens last summer, would his fellow Wasps, loose forwards will see another very decent unit pursuit of victory this afternoon.

build his own Test career and with Matt Dawson, Austin Healey and the eye-catching Gloucester youngster Scott Benton in the pursuing pack, a single moment's complacency might easily be one too many.

"I've got to perform, haven't 1?" admitted Gomarsall. "Every time, without fail. If I don't, there are plenty of scrum-halves out there who will It's a position of strength for England at the mo-ment and unless you can handle competition and thrive on it, use it positively to force the best from yourself, you'll get left behind." Happily. Gomarsall's club en- are a dream to work with."

Sheasby, in the current England starting line-up and his good friend and half-hack partner Alex King on the bench, the peer pressure is entirely supportive. That Wasps camaraderie

helps a great deal. We train together at the club and keep each other in the right frame of mind. We're pretty close - if any of us has a problem, it's a problem shared - hut then, it's a pleasure to be involved in the England set-up, too. For a scrum-half, it's wonderful to play behind such a fantastic ball-winning front five... The England tight forwards

in action at close quarters this af-ternoon. It is an article of faith with Puma packs that set-piece ball is sacrosanct and the scrum-

half expects to make an early ac-

quaintance with a substantial

all of hlue and white shirts. "I've never played against an Argentinian side at any level but I know what they're about. They love the physical side of the game, the rough and tumble, and that means a particular set of problems for an opposing scrumhalf. It suits me fine, though, because I relish that sort of contest." Despite his crash course at the All Black school of

Reed ready for Italian challenge

Scotland do not intend becoming the fall guys in Italy's at- al scene for England after a tempt to break into the Five Nations' Championship. Although beaten 54-21 by England three weeks ago, the Italians troubled Wales and Australia earlier this season and they see today's game with the Scots at Murrayfield and the 4 January encounter with Ireland in Dublin as major opportunities to achieve a final breakthrough

into Europe's top rugby club. Scottish fans worried by the prospect of defeat will not be encouraged by the low-key ap-proach of their coach, Richie Dixon, to the game. "I think there will be two reasonably matched sides out there," he said. "And, as with all internationals, it will be decided by whoever wants to win the most. Italy are here to win as part of their bid to get into the Five Nations, and it is up to us to set the challenge for them."

In addition to avoiding embarrassment, there will be no shortage of incentive for several of the Scottish players hoping to cement their international places for the opening Five Nations encounter, against Wales on 18 January. By way of contrast there will be the 23year-old Northampton prop Matt Stewart making his debut, while the veteran centre Scott Hastings, 11 years Stewart's senior, returns for his 63rd cap.

There is also a new beginning for the former Lions lock Andy Reed, who collected the last of his 10 Scottish caps against South Africa in November 1994. The 6ft 7in, Cornishman, who switched

from Bath to Wasps this season, will hope to follow in the footsteps of his club-mate Chris Sheasty. who burst on to the internationclose-season move to Wasps.

Reed, 27, has recovered from a career-threatening back problem that kept him out of the game for 14 months. "There was a time when I thought I would not play at any level again, never mind at international level," he said "But, once I started again, I wanted to play at the highest standard. There is still plenty of room for improvement, but I will give it my best shot."

Dixon, unhappy with the forwards' display in the 29-19 defeat by Australia last month. dropped Doddie Weir to bring Reed in, and he realises the spotlight will be on him today.

For the first time, I'm feeling some pressure but I like to think I can thrive on it," Reed said. "Italy are by no means mugs.

Scotland, who will be led for the second time by Gregor Towns and who will be playing inside centre for the first time at international level, will be especially wary of Alessandro Troncon, Italy's livewire scrum-half and their threequarter Paolo Vaccari, who both scored tries for Italy against England.

Jones angry at four-week ban

Mark Jones, Ebbw Vale's for- Scotland cruised to their mer rugby league forward, has received a four-week suspension. Italy at under-21 level at Inafter being sent off for punching. The cluh's officials are Two tries each from the Edinplanning an appeal as Jones will burgh Academicals wing Dunmiss important league games ny Bull and the West of against Dunvant, Newbridge Scotland centre Alan Bulloch, and Bridgend.

The Swansea prop Stuart Evans, dismissed after fighting with Jones in a cloh match last month, is still waiting to hear his

"It is rough justice. A pro-fessional footballer gets a onematch ban, but we are dishing out the same 30 days as when rugby was an amateur sport," Vale's chairman, Malcolm Shepherd, said. "We are not going to take this lying down. It's crazy that a professional sportsman still has to answer to amateur rules, and has to ohey masters of an amateur game."

Jones, who joined Vale from Warrington earlier this season, was punished by the Welsh Rugby Union's disciplinary

committee. He won 14 in-

ANGLO-WELSH CUP Pool 28: Orreit v New-port (2.0).

cul B MATCHES: Aspatria v Permiti; Bath v Welterbald (1.0); Bradford & Binglay v Harrogate (2.15); Camberley v Basingstoke; Constorphine v Abendeen (SSFP (11.0); GHK v Nirramock (11.0); Glesgov Acads v Contoclars (11.0); Graggorouth v Beger (11.0); Haddington v Dunferminne (11.0); Lecis v Nortungform (1.0); London Intel v London Scottath (12.0); North Ribbleediale v Wharfedsle (2.15); Regmouth v Torquey; Preston Gresshoppers v Hall Ionisms (2.15); Regmouth v Torquey; Preston Gresshoppers v Hall Ionisms (2.15); Regmouth v Hall Valley (2.15); Sheffield v Morfey; Stirking County v My (11.0); Valle of Lune v Yoldy, Walsel v Stoke; Waterloo v Borterloo v Borterloo v Bortey, Walsel V Stoke; Waterloo v Borterloo v Borterloo

sandar v Middlestmough (2.15); Sheffield v Morkey; Stirking County v Apr. (11.0); Vale of Lune v Fylder, Wallasi v Stoke, Watteriov o Bor-oughmuir; Weston-super-Mare v Taymton 112.30); Worcestor v Soorbars; Hawart v High Wycombe; Merthyr v Cardet.

second successive victory over verleith yesterday afternoon. plus 16 points from the boot of Heriot's stand-off Gordon Ross. helped the Scots to an easy victory. Scotland's next game at this level is against Wales in Edinhurgh on 17 January.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The yards that a lob by Wigan Athletic's Matt Carracher travelled before dropping over the head of the Scarborough keeper in a reserve football

match at Springfield Park

this week. Only 100 fans

witnessed the goal.

Clever Gregory

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Andy Gregory has named a strong Great Britain squad for the 12-nation World Nines in Australia, aided by a loophole that allows Steve Holgate to continue to be regarded as a Workington Town player.

Wigan announced the signing of the 24-year-old second row list week, but the Rugby League is withholding his registration until Wigan pay Salford the £10.000 they still owe them for the transfer of Terry O'Connor.

If Holgate was already registered with Wigan. Gregory would be unable to select him. as there is a limit of one player from each club and Wigan's Andy Farrell will captain the side. The squad, who go to Townsville, north Queensland, on 31 January for the three day tournament, include nine other players who featured in Britain's recent tour of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand Guillied, Fiji and New Zealand. Geran Bratan Squalir A Fared Wason, conc. S Spruce (Bodford, S Maylor (Saford, M Computer) (Indiann, J Bandley) viachta, A Solith (Gasteroff, K Seeler (Strefteri, B J Matthey (Western Rett), B Debts (Jacobart Warmord, K Caming-lasm) (St Helens), P Sculinterpe (Warmogon), A Morley (Lect., S Holgate (Worldington), 7 Tollett (London),

Cannock to try again

BILL COLWILL

The Premier League leaders. Cannock, have an early opportunity to make up for last week's failure to beat Guildford before the National League heads for Jason Laslett, upset second winter hihernation when they play the same side this weekend in one of four games postponed from 24 November.

Cannock, who only drew at Guildford last week and would have lost if either Martin Sampson or David Mathews had been a shoulder in that game.

more confident in late breakaways, will welcome the return from suspension of their captain, Kalhir Takher, who should strengthen a midfield which lacked conviction tast Sunday.

Teddington, still without Great Britain's Olympic captain. placed Southgate last weekend. Southgate will be pleased that Army Major Peter Boxell is back from the Falklands and able to line up at sweeper in place of their player-coach, James Duthie, who dislocated

Australia for the two Test matches last summer would have noticed a definite improvement when we played them this time." Bowring

Bowring has made five changes, one enforced through Gareth Thomas' injury, from the starting line-up outgunned in every department by Aus-Despite that defeat, far more morrow if Wales are to end their comprehensive than the 28-19 dismal record of eight defeats score suggested. Bowring be-

bit as much as the long-suffering Welsh rugby public. Sunday's match is the 12th of Bowring's reign, which started last January with a win over Italy, but has been unsatisfactory, to say the least, since then. A Five Nations

QUOTES OF

THE WEEK

Given the right car and the right backing nothing is impossible. Nigel Mansell

believes his comeback to

Formula One racing could lead to the world title next

Watching City is the best laxative in the land.

Phil Neal, Manchester

City's caretaker manager.

I tumed down Mike

[Tyson], without even both-

ering to ask how much mon-

ey they were prepared to pay

me. Emanuel Steward,

Lennox Lewis's trainer, who rejected the former world heavyweight champion's ap-

proach to be his trainer.

I just can't believe some

of the reaction to a couple

of early tour defeats. We

have been acclimatising.

but the doom-and-gloom

merchants have been get-ting into us already. England

cricket captain, Mike

Atherton, after his side fi-

nally won a match in Zim-

habwe, against Matabeleland.

The spirit here is faritastic

and I'm not going to let an

outburst spoil it. George

Graham, the Leeds man-

ager, after Tony Yeboah showed his frustration at

being left out of the team.

wash, was the highlight, but the two other successes came against Italy again and an understrength Barbarians.

Bowring wants to adopt Pontypridd approach

The Springboks are going for a fifth successive Test win after Bowring needs a victory every a brace of 2-0 series triumphs over Argentina and France since New Zealand beat them on home soil earlier this year. Since Wales last won the Triple Crown in 1988 they have lost 20 of their last 36 home games, and they have not

Marches not on pools coupons: 3.0 unless stated

Manches not on pools coupons: 3.0 unless stated
PA CARLISERIA WASE Third counts. Briggy FouLaw, South Smilds & Bedington Fermess Louth
v Wintbur, Dunston FB v Holker Old Brys, Tetley
Wolfler v Intithoral (1.30); Haltam v North Fernby, Guraborough v Pouton Vocional Col. Whitbyt;
Ossett Attion v Namylich. Visuals GMV Mossbys, Geraborough v Pouton Vocional Col. Whitbyt;
Ossett Attion v Namylich. Visuals GMV Mossbys, Guraborough v Pouton Vocional V NewArtistic visuals of Dunbarn (1.30); Hustean V NorthCollege College Rayley V Suffron Validors,
Stresson & Loyde V Namylich V Suffron Validors,
College Rayle & Romford v Brantines; Whenbeach v Desc. Concord Namylich Suffron
Manor; College Rayle & Romford v Brantines; Whenbeach v Desc. Concord Namylich Suffron
May Demonate Namylich Namylich
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V Suffron Namylich
Pascellare A Tokonomic Prist There (Inchar)

Pascellare Rayle Saltanic Barbert

Pascellare S. Saltanic Description

V Windsons.

Henrie Bay v Saltash: Banched v Truck, Traichann v Winborne.

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury v
reading: Borenam Wood v St. Abance Bronniey v
reading: Borenam Wood v St. Abance Chicago, v
Suston Utd., Hamow Borough v Chertsey;
Notation v Bashop is Storpford; Kingstoniam v
Ensett Stames v Dutwech; v count i Heybridge. Prist
Divisions Bashingstone v Leyon Permant.
Borksamston v Bogrow Repsis. Carvey Istanti v
Adershot. Cryption v Bulandige; Madremead v
Whyteleafs; Markov v Chesham; Molesey v Hampton; Thame v Borton Roses, Toolming & Mercham
v "Suston & Hersham, Wolkington v Abangston
Jose; Worthery v Bleere, v, Second Divisions
Bedford v Hungerford; Bracknell v Henral Hornystoad: Chalfort St. Peter v Egham Cherling v
Cheshard, Weerstone v Ware. Third Divisions Arelery v Kingsbury, East Thurock v Egon & Ereck,
Place V Kingsbury, East Thurock v Egon & Ereck,
Place V Kingsburg, East Thurock v Egon & Ereck,
Place V Kingsburg, East Thurock v Egon & Ereck,
Place V Kingsburg, East Thurock v Egon & Ereck,
Place V Kingsburg, East Thurock v Egon & Ereck,
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Recommendant v Parist.

**Challed States **Challed V Mingsburg & Finishey v

Southalf.**

Southall.

UnigioND LEAGUE, Promiler Division: Accuragion Stanley v Gueseler: Allieston v Cotegos Bay, Barnew v Buston; Byth Spattans v Leek; Boston Unv v Runcom: Emiley v Chorloy; Rrowsley v Bishop Auck Lance Minchant V Barner; Briston V Berner; Briston V Briston Line; Greatna v Harden Line; Greatna v Harden V Berner; Briston V Bri

forn Pari Averuer, Warmigton v Farsley Colox.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Achdrat Dorghestan Agherstone v Chekristoni; Burjon v Bottock: Cambridge Cdy v Greeley Rosess: Chavley v Chekreshon; Glouvester v Strungsouther, Halestowen Toma v Ren's Lynn; Hassistone Halestowen Toma v Ren's Lynn; Hassistone Halestowen Toma v Ren's Lynn; Hassistone Halestowen Toma v Merthyr Tydfic; Wordester v Namesdon, Mildhad Divisione Bod Worth Uta v Dudley; Corry v Belson; Grandham v Stafford; Hareley Toma v Raunds; Rothred V Jamoutht, Strephele Dynapov v Raung Cab, Warwack; Sothull v Westpin; Stouthridge v Evenham:

Football

and one draw, stretching hack lieves his side are on the right win over France which avoided beaten a southern hemisphere a hard-edged pack, makes them 90 years, against South Africa. Track. "People who were out in another championship white- nation during that period. comfortable favourites. Much will be expected from the Welsh midfield of Jonathan

Davies, Scott Gibbs and Alian Bateman, who a year ago were playing for Wales in the Rugby League World Cup, hut it is up front where their hopes stand

South Africa may have sent 10 players surplus to requirements home early, and they could well he fatigued, but the likes of Andre Joubert and Joost van der Westhuizen, plus

Sutton Coldfield v Reddistrit; VS Rugby v Pages.
Southern Division: Bashley v Megasir; Cinderford v Buchingham Town; Dardord v Hexant: Fasher Affiletic v St. Leonards Statmento: Field v Overcester; Forest Green Rovers v Farcham; Newport low v Winery; Torthrughy v Stat; Waterfoorlile v Cevedort: Weston-super-Mare v Trowbrugh; Weymouth v Enth & Betredere.
NORTHERN COUNTES: EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Censoly v Armstorph; Glesshoughton v Behre: Haffled Man v Ashheld; Inverselige v Armotic Platiering v Matthy; Truckling v Settly: Ponteficial v Ossett Town.
WINSTORULEAD KENT LEAGUE Flyes Division-

WINSTORLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions Serial v Ossett York.

WINSTORLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions Bedeinham v Chathers: Canterbury v Croy: Fave-sham v Forkestone: Thamesmead v Hythe: Tun-bridge Weis v Parnsgate; Woolwich v Sone Green, UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTRES LEAGUE Pra-mier Division: Bourne v Weishghortong; Des-borough v Si Nedts: Eynestury v Neaport Pagnal; Ford Sports v Bosten Tower, Holbeach v Remp-stort Long Buddy v Stotfolt: Potton v Northamp-ton Spencer: Wootfort v Mirries Blackstone. UNITET SUSSEX COUNTRY LEAGUE First Divi-gion: Hangham v Oukwood; Horsham YMCA v Estbourne Town Pagner v Southwach; Selsey v Three Bridges; Whathawk v Arundet; John Office West Confession.

SCHEMPRO DETECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions SCHEMPRO DETECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions Bacturell v Chard; Brisington v British Mannor Farm; Barnotacire v Westbury; Emmer v Bridgon; Torrington v Odd Down. Lee Philips Cup sec-ord round; Paulton v Bishop Sutton; Bideford v Devices.

v Devices. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Piret Divi-

sion; Blackpool Rovers v Marrie Road; Cotherne v Atherton Collegnes; Darvier v St Helenes; East-wood Harviey v Pennth; Krisgrove v Chedderlon; Goosop v Burscough; Prescot v Bootle; Selford v Rossendale.

v Hossendale.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymmgton v Romsey, Anduser v Cowles Sports; BAT Sports v
Christitusch: East Cowles Vica v Brockynthurst;
Gosport Borough v Downton; Peterphilid v Totton; Portsmouth RN v Boumennouth; Rhot
v Acrostouchures; Windchurch v Eastleigh.

PASSONALIAS, WINDIGHT PRINCE DIVISIONS ASSESSMENT OF A STREET LEAGUE Primiles Divisions Clacton v Morch: Great Yarmouth v Fajestover, Hadeligh v Fahrenhare, Hannich & Padesgrav V Nathoya: Lowestoft v Bury Toars: Neumarket v Golffeston; Soham v Sudhuny Town; Stownsolet v Sudhuny Warndetes; Wakon v Tippine.

PER V SUCTION WANDERS WITH A STREET WAS A SUPPLY WAS A SU

COMFORTABLE TAVOUTIES.
WALES: N Jenkins (Portypridd); 1 Evens (Lenckt), A Barteman (Richmond), S Gibbs (Swanses), D James (Brdgend); J Davies (Cardif), R Howies (Cardif), C Loader (Swanses), J Humpfarays (Cardif), capi), D Young (Cardif), G Llewestym (Harbequins), M Rowtey (Portypridd), D McKathook (Portypridd), S Wilkams (Neath), C Chards (Swanses), Replacements L Owdes (Cardif), A Thomas (Swanses), P John (Portypridd), N Thomas (Bath), L Mustice (Cardif), G Jenides (Swanses).

(Swerisen).

SOUTH AFRICA: A Jourbert: J Small, J Mulder, H Le Rous, J Oliwer, H Horiboit, J van der Westhulzer: D Theron, J Delton, A Garvey, K Wiese, M Andrews, R Kruger, G Teichmann (capt), A Venter, Replacemente: K Pust, A Snyman, W Fyrie, F van Heerden, T van der Linde, H Tromp.

Referen: S Lander (England).

ternational caps before joining the league ranks. WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Force Mechanics; Peterhisad v Clachsacud-din: Ruthes v Brora Rangers; Wick Academy v Nam County.

Rugby Union 2.30 unless stated
SAVE & PROSPER INTERNATIONAL
England v Argentina (3.0)

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (at Murrayfield).
TOUR MATCH: Emerging Weles v South Africa
A (at Swansee).

A LET SWEITSBEIT.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Welch President's Under-21 v Natal Under-21 11.0) (at Sweitsbeit) SWENSEEL ROYAL AND SUN ALLIANCE COLTS COUN-TY FINAL: East Middland Colts v Kent Colts (1.0)

National Content v Landonne, Schmide V Hiveaut, Cross Keys v Torgrefair, Feliafoel v Natherth; Kolwelly v Carmerthen Quins; Liendoney v Berchgover, Lantrisans; v Dinas Powys; Meessele v Abermon; Mountain Ach v Gilfach Goch; Newcastle Ernlyn v Resolven; Penscool v Glywhestir, Pensgrale v Tredegar, Portycymmer v Abergavenny; Pomypool v Oolgesus; Pyle v Cermartion Anc, Rhymney v Armanitard (2,0); South Wales Police v Bonymaen; Whistan V Busht Wels.

INSURANCE CORPORATION IRESH LEAGUE First Division; Blackmonk Codega v Old Wesley; Durigamon v Ballymena; Insonians v St. Many's Collegic Old Balaedere v Young Munster, Old Crescent v Landonne; Shennon v Cork Constitution; Terenare Coll v Garyonen Second Divisions: Bectwo Rangers v NIPC; DLSP v Dolphin; Deny w Monkstown; Malone v Contart, Sunday's Well v Skernes; UCC v Highfeld; Wanderen v Grystones.

Nighted: Wanderen's Craystones.
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP South Pool One:
Surrey v Ordandshire (2.15) let Imber Court,
South Pool Twee Devan v Middleser (at Bidenoti); Somister v Buschigaranshire (2.15) (at
Britigeware), South Pool Threes Easiern Courhee v Dorset & Wilds Let Braintree; H Prempalire
v Borteshire (2.15) (at Braintree); H Prempalire
v Borteshire (2.15) (at Worthing).
North Pool Once: East Mollands v Lancashire
at Beoford): Lebestershire v Campia lat Serdis Beoford): Lebestershire v Campia lat Ser-

RICERLURK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCES
ROMACH, Plactoria v Wilerhall; Oldbury v
Bohrenz, Placial v West Middend Place, Penhane
v Stapenint, Rocester v Shifrat; Statlard v Ruchall
Olympia,
PEDERATION BREIWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE
First Division: Betingtom Symbonia v Crook;
Chester-Lo-Street v Seatem Red Sare; Consect
v Mutton: Durham v Tow Law; Whichtam v
Stockion. North Pool Case: East Mollands v Lancashire (at Bedford): Leichstershiro v Cumbria Lat Sys-tord. North Pool Twer. Norts, Lines & Derby v Cheshure (at Newark): Warwicishire v Northumberland (3.0) (at Rugby). North Pool Tareec North Midlands v Yonshire (at Stour-lands): Staffordshire v Durham (at Burton).

v Neam County,
HARP LABER MATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND
Premier Division: Finn Harps v Cork City
(7.30); Sign Rovesv St Patrock's Abletic (7.30).
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Manchester Utd v Derby (2.0) (at Bigg Lane, Buryl.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: East Synthesis v Hourslow (1.30); Southgate v Teddington I 2.01. First Divisions Ediplacton v Crosby (1.30); Stouppor v Beeston (1.0). NASTRO AZZARRO South Premier: Antion v Turbridge Wels; Backenham v Chichester: Bournemouth v Ramgarhas; Farsham v Wolingtam; Gore Court v Old Wingdilens; Hampsteed & Westmunster v High Wycombe; Maidenhead v Anchonans; Old Kingstonens v Spence; Rehmond v Wolding, Winchester v Wirnblach. SWALEC CLIP Fifth round: Ab SWAZEC COP FIND POMBE Abercam v Yetradgynteis; Bedwas v Abercynon; Blachwood Y Hilwaun; Crose Keys v Torgrefail; Felinfoel v Narberth; Kelwelly v Carmerthen Quins; Ugn-

DTZ MIDLAND Premier: Blossombeld v Lough-borough Students: Coventry & North Warweck v Blowlich; Hampton-in-Arden v North Notes Habborne v Nottingham: Otton & West Warwick v Mysise.

NORTH First Division: Ben Rhydding v Swalwell: Chester v Norton; Formby v Remagarha;
Nesson v Imperley; Shefield Barniers v
Southport; Springleids v Herrogate.

EAST RNDOOR SUPER LEAGUE (Aldenham
School 12.30-50; St Albarse, Ford Ducton,
Chalmsford, Blucharts, Spaking, Old Loughtsmant & Rechridge & Hord.

WANNEWS SERST Premisers Controlled Chu Mel.

WOMEN'S EAST Premier: Camoridge City v Wel-wyn Garden Crly; Harteston Magdies v Bury Sr Edmunds; Ipswich v Berleyneith; Sevenoeks v WONER'S SOUTH First Divisions City of Portsmouth v Duhwch; Horstern v Winenester; Southempton v Hampstead & Westminster; Winchmore Hill v Tulse Hill; Worthing v Reed-

Basketball ENDWEISER LEAGURE: Thames Valley Tigers v Manchester Grents (8.0); Buttin's Worthing Beers v Leleaster Riders (8.0).

Ice bockey
PREMIER LEAGUE: Kingston Hawks v Mea,
way Bears (6.30): Slough Jets v Guidfon
Parmes (6.30): Telford Tigers v Swindo
loeLords (7.30).

Other sports

BOWNG: Vacant Brosh fight-middleweigh to
the R Ripodes; Isheffield P Jones; Isheffield
vacant British crulsonveight title: J Notso
(Sheffield) v D Andres (Hackney) (Ponds Fore
Sports Centre, Sheffield)

TOMORROW HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: Bohemans v Bray Wanderns (3.15): Sharmock Rovers v Derry City (3.15): University College Dublin v Shel-bourne (3.15).

Rugby Union INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wates v South Africa

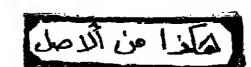
PRICINGTON CUP Fourth round: Rossyn Park v Esher (2.30). CLUB MATCHES: West Hardepool v Newcastle;

MATIONAL LEAGUE President Connock v Guid-ford (2.0); Howard v Surbition (2.25), First Di-vision: Domosser v Hull (2.0); Sheffield v Long-

SUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle Eagles v Derby Storm (5.30); Eagle London Towers v Sheffield Sharks (7.15). 7-UP TROPHY: Peugaot Bullets Birmingham v Hernel & Wattord Royals (7.0)

PREMIER LEAGUE: Guidford Flames v Swiss-don lostonds (S.D); Medway Bears v Kingston Hawks (S.15); Stough Jets v Tefford Tigers (B.30); Solituif Blaze v Paterborough Pirates (7.0). ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles v New-castle Cobras (6,30).

INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE: Great Brillian v University of Maintoba (at Blackburn), Other sports



yountb

Dettori story finds the going good

Only those who have pitched their tent in close proximity to a Shining Path guerrilla en-campment recently will be unaware that Frankie Dettori's

autobiography is on the shelves.
If there is a television programme that does not feature either Jill Dando or racing's laughing boy at the moment it must be on just after the milkman has risen. Dentori's ubiquity (he has appeared on Top Of The Pops, The Big Breakfast, Smillie's People and Clive An-derson All Talk among others) is explained by the publication of his life work to the age of 25.

This book was to have followed the format of those reli-ably terrible turf dirges and charted the path of a personality over a season's span. However, hen Dettori was ejected by Shawanni at Newbury in June it may have hurt his elbow but it did no harm to A Year In The Life Of Frankie Dettori (Heinemann, £15.99) as the Italian was forced in investigate other areas. Thus we get a flavour of the teenager's spartan early days in New-market, though there is less discussion about another taste, Dettori sampled in 1992.

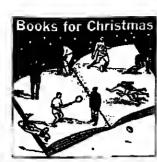
The main criticism of the book, as it is with most turf biographies, is that there is a oo-mad's attitude in dwelling when it comes to reflection on misdemeanours and mistakes. Nevertheless, giveo the popularity of the oamed author (who claims the book is just about all his own work) there is much to believe in the assertion of Dettori's management that the

book is going well.

Michael Kinane has, on the other hand, had a relatively barren season leading up to his au-thorised biography. Nevertheless, Michael Clower has done well to get a book out of a jockey who speaks as frequently as Pinocchio

before Gepetto got his chisel out.

Mick Kinane Big Race King
(Mainstream, £15,99) concerns a man who has reached the same heights as Dettori without sections of this effort come can think of. I'm in it.



Richard Edmondson examines the latest literary offerings from jockeys, journalists and bookmakers

when Kinane analyses his own character and manner. The jockey damns himself from his own mouth and occasionally sounds like the sort of bloke with whom you would not like to survive a shipwreck.

Timing has also been of the essence with David Ashforth, whose Hitting The Tist (Headline, £14.99) is available just after the tuling's described recognition as the racing writer of the year. This book is vaguely autobio-graphical and probably sharply distressing for the writer's fam-ily. Ashforth revels in his rote as one of Britain's most serious unprofessional punters.

The sketches he provides are well-observed and, most importantly, in a sport that churns out enough comantic junk to fill Becher's Brook, they are real. tt is quite simply the hest racing book for some time.

Christmas is also the time when Graham Sharpe, William Hill's media relations manager, churns out one of his compilation books, Mrs Sharpe must get very annoyed with all those slivers of paper left behind the settee all year as hubby snips items that tickle him from the national press. Odds, Sods And Racing Cens (Robson Books, £14.95) has been dooe before, a trace of the same level of en- but it does possess the single joymeot. The most compelling greatest attribute this writer



Fab Five: Muhammad Ali meets the Beatles in Miami in February 1964. Ali was preparing for his fight against Sonny Liston. The Beatles had just appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show for the first time. The photograph, by UPI/Bettmann is taken from Muhammad Ali: In Perspective by Thomas Hauser, published by Collins, £14.99

Varying accounts of the life of Jacques the lad

impact on Formula One is about to be reflected in a race for book buyers. The in-house, glossy, lavishly illustrated offering is out of the pits ahead of the publication that has got the driver's camp hot under the collar. The New Villeneuve by

Tim Collings (Bloomshury). While Collings endeavours to reveal the "warts and all" story of Jacques the lad, Villeneuve: My First Season In Formula One (Collins Willow, £20) written for the Canadian driver by Gerald Donaldsoo, charts a safer course, race by race to second place in the world championship

Jacques Villeneuve's dramatic behind his Williams-Renault team-mate, Damon Hill.

Villeneuve represents the new generation in Formula One, a cavalier, unceremonious individual intent on conveying that very image. "I prefer people who are genuine and I try to be that myself," he says. "I wouldn't like to feel I was obliged to conform."

The 25-year-old former IndyCar champion has been enthusiastically embraced by some of the younger grand prix drivers. David Coulinard has welcomed him as a breath of fresh air, saying even Michael Schomacher has been charmed and influenced by him.

Derick Allsop casts a critical eye over the best motor racing books

spect. His combative style was speciacularly characterised by the manoeuvre which took him round and past the German's Ferrari in Portugal. Villeneuve had suggested to his crew he might employ the oval-style tactic, and was quickly on the radio to tell

to get flustered and make mis-

There is little doubt Villeneuve takes in close encounters, othhas earned Schumacher's re- ers, like Michael Schumacher, know exactly what they are do-

ing," Villeneuve says. No direct

comparison with Hill and, in-

deed, Villeneuve congranulates

the Englishman on his "deserved" title success and portrays an excellent working relationship. And yet, you are left wondering.

with Ferrari, as well as earlier days, in Green Races Red (Collins Willow, £14.99). Irvine, too, can give the im-

pression he works at being "nat-ural". And, in common with other members of the gang, he does not have a particularly high regard for Hill. He is critical of the way Hill handled the ill-fated negotiations for a new contract with Williams, and agrees with those who feel he is no match for Schumacher, "Nobody in equal equipment could beat Schumacher. There are a them: "You see, it worked!"

Another cardidate for ForDeat Schumacher. Their are a Derick Allsop's book,
The respect between VIIThe respect be man recounts his first seasoo - mon is the man."

Irvine has taken a pragmatic approach to life as Schumacher's No 2. He accepts it, just as he accepts his team-mate's preemineoce. If, however, Williams is still beyond reach; season and Heinz-Harald For tzen handles the pressure, Irvine

believes Frentzen "will walk it". In Irvine, The Luck Of The Irish (Patrick Stephens, £9.99), Adam Cooper, like Collings, develops his own picture without direct assistance from the driver concerned. next Monday's sports section.

TC.

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24 HOUR

REWARDS . CLO

Summer jumping 'ridiculous'

jumping and moderate racing for the plethora of small fields after saddling Yorkshire Gale to win a two-horse race at Cheltenham yesterday. Gifford said fields will not improve while the racing programme, which now includes summer jumping. caters for moderate horses.

He said: "These races cut up because there are not enough good horses to go round and never will be while the powersthat-be look after moderate horses. If they stopped summer iumping, it would help racing in the autumn. Even in the days of Arkie there were three- or fourrunner races, but the public came in watch because there were good harses to see.

"I've got Major Summit but nowhere to run him. He must either take on the big boys, which he is not ready for, or carry top weight in a handicap. There are not enough races to educate nice young quality horses. There are more horses than ever, but they are bad nnes. My moderate horses have won more times this year because I can't find races for the better nnes.

And he added: "Summer jumping is the most ridiculous thing to have happened in racing and, as for all-weather racing, who wants it? The jockeys cover their faces with masks but what about the poor nid horses who have to suck in all the dirt and sand?"

CHELTENHAM

HYPERION 7.00 Super Chappy 7.30 Arapi 8.00 Souperficial 8.30 High Premium 9.00 Petosida 9.30 Gadge GOING: Sandard. STALLS: 77 & Im 61 - outside; rest. - inside

DEAW ADVANTAGE: blots from 8f so Im 4L Phresand, left-hand, oval course.

Course is porth of town on A449. Wolverhampton station one nde swy. ADECREON: Club E/S, Testemals &6 (CAP members of Dismond Club F-1); Viewing Resumant £25.00 including entrance and mest CAR PARE: free Pashdon (9.30).

WINNESS IN LAST SEVEN DATE Note.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Forestr (9.00) sex 181 miles
by J J O'Neill from Skekon Wood End, Cambria.

7.00 MEASURE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 edded 270 1m 100yds 50 BAARETH (FIRST) (SQ S Millerse 9 0... 0 BRATTHOSE (SQ) D Morte 9 0... 10 MORE PRESENCE (B) Horizon 9 0... 10 MORE PRESENCE (B) Horizon 9 0... 10 MORE PRESENCE (B) Horizon 0 0... 5 DOUBLE CREST (19) M Johnston 8 9

BETTHR: 12-4 Effortunescence, 7-2 Superbolle, 5-1 Jack The Lad, 6-1 Ref fey Spinney, 6-1 Manhoth, 10-1 Double Crest, 12-1 others
7.30 WINTER'S TALE STAKES (CLASS D)
1 5311 ABNY (ZZ) St Mark Prescott 0 0
2 233250 FOOT SUITALION (35) R Hollenhand 8 0
3 405053 WOMORE HIR NICEBLY (28) E Platon 9 0
4 635 TRANSLATER (42) (C) C Thomas 90 J Quine (
5 258212 AUST LOUI CLER (C) W Turner 9 11 I Specific 2
0 000 STATE OF GOLD (78) J Herberton 0 11
BETTING: 9-4 Arapi, 9-2 Foot Battalion, 7-2 Trulbianer, 4-1 Nombre M
Micagay, Just Loui, 18-1 State of Gold

8.00 AS YOU LIKE IT HANDICAP (CLASS E)

200	£3,500 added 8f
	DESENT BROKER (15) (CD) D Chapman 5 10 O.A College 2
	LORD SKY (19) (C) (D) A Boley 5 8 12
	QUEENS CRECK (28) Miss J Crope 3 8 11 0 Pears (3) 13 8
100342	MOW'S YER FREHER (ES) (IN R Hodges 10 9 8 5 December 9
	THEORE WARD (15) S BOWING 3 8 8 S D Williams 7 B
	ME FROSTY (11) (D) W brits 4 9 6
₩0000	BOFFY (15) (C) (D) B Saugh 39 6R Perhans 11
540504	CHEERY CHAPPY (1) (CD) O Chapman 59 6

= 13 declared =

BETINE: 9-2 How's Yer Fether, 5-1 Queens Check, 6-1 Lord Sty, Mr Frusty,
7-1 Descrit Invader, 8-1 Thoutes Magic, 14-1 others

8.30 D) £4,000 added 1m 1f 79yds BENTLEY JENNISON HANDICAP (CLAS! 005051 CEDEZ LE PASSAGE (ISO (C) KC-Brown 5 10 0 __Dans O'Nell 2 8

005051. CEDEZ LE PMSSAGE (US) (C) KC-Brown 5 10 0 _Durin O'Nelli 2 8
204103 SOULH ENSYETH PRED (CS) (CD) H CONTROLES 5 9 9.1 Quitor 4
521120 PRISH PREBAURI (42) (C) R Fairey 8 9 9 ______ A Cultimo 6
322032 SENTIDO (S) (CD) Mrs N Mosculey 7 0 5 _C Tengins (S) 10 V
654224 LOVENOUMILLIONS (176) N Tinkler 4 9 4 ______ M Digherr 8 1
056306 MORTH HIEFE (28) J Paires 5 9 4 ______ M Wigherr 7
045320 ROCENBE ENSHINA (67) (WP) 8 Morgen 5 9 3 ____ S Sanders 11
221-05 ROCENBE ENSHINA (67) (WP) 8 Morgen 5 9 3 ____ F Norton 0
006245 EXPLOSIVE POWER (9) (CD) G Bavery 5 9 1 ____ Protron 0
006245 EXPLOSIVE POWER (9) (CD) G Bavery 5 9 1 ____ Protron 0
006245 EXPLOSIVE FOWER (9) (CD) G Bavery 5 9 1 _____ Protron 0
006250 WORLDWIDE ELSIE (186) CS (Comption 3 9 0 _____ D Biggs 0
201010 SHAMIK (USA) (7) (CD) O Hight Jones 6 8 11.5 Whitmorth 1
050100 DESLADY (48) W Turner 48 11 ______ T D White 12 13 000000 LE SPORT (50) (C) 0 Nichalle 3 8 11.

- 13 Seciano - HETTONE: 3-1 High Provious. 4-1 Gerioz La Passa South Eastern Frad, 10-1 Bantico, Lovejoussiffor

14	-1 vibers	: :	•		· ·	
[9.00	PLYVINE (CLASS 6	CATER	NG SEL	LING ST	AKES Gyds
1		PORZAIR (19)				
2		PETOSION (I				
3	0400000	MAPENGO (2	20 J Culine	.593	Vsi	Miles 3
4	040206	ZELEM (45) I	As N Maca	Hey 402	le Human	m (7) 0
5	0/00/-00	DURBURG CO.	ST (11) R F	Mcock 8 8 12	D	Bletts 2
8	025020	ROSE OF GLE	THE (18) 8	Paling 58 1Z	C	outter 5
7	005000	STILL HERE (DER COP	Bowen 3 8 10	A Mc	Sione 1
8	0	STAR OF LUG	AMA (19) T	Coment 385		th (7) 0
0		STILLERA DAN				

nk, 9-2 Saleibe Duncer, 5-1 Rose Of Clar 5-1 Still Hery, 10-1 Zelling, 16-1 Managers, 46-1 oth

9.30 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,000 added 1m 4f

E) £3,000 added 1.m 45

001411 NWHTH, (11) 09 W Bury 4 10 0 40

004112 HILLIPPIN DWISER (A) (B) W Butoure 59 13. Jone Words (7) 4

106011 SET THE PASSHON (63) 0 Williams 7 8 12 Julia Raja 0 8

402236 ORELOS (ISSA) (7) Mais S Willion 5 9 11. S Williams to 7

50-462 MAD MILTOWIT (42) (CD) (BP) & Seeder 7 0 10 I. Sprake 11

000045 IN THE MONEY (SS) (CD) R Hollindred 7 8 10 F Lyrob (S) 6

060 PERTRE (0) K Twiston-Davies 4 8 7. Seeders 2

050056 GADGE (7) A Bully 5 8 6. D Wilght 1

0-20204 LIVENDER DELIA (25) (BP) M Foodley 3 8 4. C Ruster 5

0-04 COMMY (19) S Williams 3 8 4. A MicRone 3

106013 MR SPECILIPPIN (22) J Bulls 3 8 2. D Bugs 12

045400 CMMRUS SWITTERE (SS) (CS) 1 Campbal 6 8 2. D Bugs 12

DETYING: 7-2 Marcial, 9-2 Set the Pushico, 5-1 VIII Parm Dencer, 7-1 March Militari, 8-1 Obelon, 10-1 in The Money, Charlie Mighine, 12-1 Others

RACING RESULTS

12.0%: 1. BNN AT THE TOP (W Fty) 6-4:
2. Herbert Lodge 11-10 fm; 3. Twendowood
10-1. 9 tens. 3, 13. U Norton). Totac 12.60;
£1.10. £1.50. £1.40. DF: £1.50. CSF:
£3.71. Tot: £4.10.
12.3%: 1. TOULSTON LADY (Mr R Thomton) 8-1: 2. Laughing Buccameur 4-1 co fm;
3. Oathbury 8-1. 11 ram. 4-1 op fav Mudtert Sovie For Less (Ath. nt. nk. U Wayston).

tark, Song For Jess (4th). nk, nk. (1 Whanton). Tota: £13.00; £3.00, £2.30, £2.10. Dual Forecast: £31.60, CSF: £40.69. Trio: £134.80, 134.80, 1_10: 1 BERUDE NOTTO L'Osborne) 1-

2.10: 1. BERGUDE NOT TO LI OBDOME) 1-6 fbr., 2. Key Yo Moyade 8-1; 3. Snowdos Lily 50-1, 4 res. 4, 64t., () Sterwood, Toker Lily 50-1, 4 res. 4, 64t., () Sterwood, Toker Lily 5-4 fbr.; 2. Celtace Bay 11-8; 3. Crystal Spirt 9-2 3 res. 4, 2½. (I Escurby). Toker E2:20. DF: £1:60. CSF: £2:97. Non Resurer in Turth.
2.20: 1. OUT ON A PROMISE () Firmager's 7-2; 2. Faithful Mond 5-1; 3. Post Master 12:1. 7 res. 13-8 fav Cartary Falcon (6th).
9, 7. IN Velker). Toker £3:80; £2:10, £2:80. DF: £10:30. CSF: £20.57.
2.65; 1. ZEMESNAR (C O'Doyad 13-8 far,

Total: \$2.60; £2.00, £2.50, £2.00. OF: £2.50, £2.50, £2.00. OF: £2.50.1 Tray £4.50, £2.60, £2 22.85, UF; £10,30, CSF: 120.57.
2.65; 1. ZEREMAR (C O'Dwyn) 13-8 far;
2. Newhall Prince 9-1; 3. Eastern Magic
15-8. 3 ren. 2, 10. (K Belley), Tebe: £1.60.
DF: £5.00, CSF: £5.69. Fire Harnes; (3-1) was withdraws not under orders. Rule 4 ap-plies to all bets, deduction 25p in the pound:

3.30: 1. HURST FLYER (A Dobbin) 7-1; 2. Denring Flore 33-1; 3. Rechel Lorine 9-2. 11 ran. 4-7 for Country Orchel (6th). nk, 5. (F. Murtagh). Totac £9.70; £3.00; £18.60, £1.10, DP. £386.90. CSP. £201.07. 7no: £254,70 (£215.28 carned forward to Hay-

LINGFIELD 11.25: 1. MASTER OF PASSION (D Successy) 7-2 km 2. Sally Stade 5-1: 2. Miles Armgon 15-2. 10 man. 1/v. 3r+ni. (I Eustros.). Totas: £2.60; £1.10; £2.00; £1.50. D7-£11.30, CSP: £19.49. 7scarc £112.77.THO: £11.60.

11.50: 1. SHANGHAI LE, (F NOTION) 14.
12. 2. Tissuer of Uses 8-1: 3. Royal Carthon
20-1. 12 pm. 2-1 for Erich. 2. nr. (M Fetherston-Godiny). Tota: £23.80; £4.00, £1.70, £8.70, DF: £73.00. £3.70, £1.70, £8.70, DF: £73.00. £5; £91.21. Thoset: £1,559.91. Trice £180.60 (£178.06 carried forward to Haydhoit 1.45 loday).
12.25: 1. IntultraHidia (M Roberts) 14-1: 2. General Harven 11.2: 3. Nothing Doing 10-1.14 mm. 4-1 fav. Bassood. 3, 5. (R Armstrong). Tota: £13.40; £3.20, £2.40, £4.50.
10: £29.00. CSF. £81.40. Nocas: £746.57.
Tex: £190.10 (£244.107 carried inward to Haydock. 1.45 today).

doi: 1.45 today), 1.00:1.45 today), 1.00:1.45 today), 1.00:1.45 today; 1.00:1.45 today; 2.2 today 7-2.14 ma. hd. 8. data Battura Warrey, Today 12.40: 52.20, 51.20, 52.00, DF: 512.50, CSP: 522.82, Tdo: 525.80,

TELLO MONEY IN THE PARTY OF THE 1.86; 1. KRECHILEN LAD (D.R. McCabe) 7-2 tay, 2. The Wyandottle Irm 14-1; 3. Bold Spring 9-1. 12 ran, Ird, 1%, 0° Moorley, Totar 53, 10; 5: 150, 5: 2-10, 5: 2-9, 60. CSP: £47.63. Rieset: £386; 90. Tric: £55.60, 2-10; 1. AMIAS Dil Roberts 8-1; 2. Nepjer Star 11.-4; 2. Featherstone Lane 7-1. 10 ran, 9-4 for Keip (48), 4, 4t-14, 0. Montague Hall, Totar 58-50; 12-30, £1-50, £2-50, 0° £18.70, CSP: £28-22, Tricset: £155.46, Ird; £25.00.

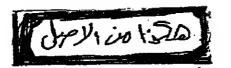
2.46; 1. SUPPREME MAINCOM [G.McLaurin] 3-1, kin; £2. Hyers Golf Lover 20-1:

2.45: 1. SUPREME INNIMITARY II V McLaughth 3-1 fac 2. Haves Golf Lover 20-1: 3. Hadisensk 7-2.0 sm. 3-1 fav Poyal Rouses 4. 4. (M. Poligino). Totac 54-20; £1.30, £5.70, £2.00, DF £36.00, CSF £48.34, 2.15: 1. SOAKING [D.R MCCRES 5-1: 2, S.1.52.1. Students for notation 5-1, 2, Baronse Valley 13-2, 8, Errent 10-1.0 ran, 2-1 fav Scory Ten. 5, rd. (P Burgome). Tone: E8.00; £210, £220, £320, DF. £18.00, CSF: £35.22. Trice: £290.93. Trice: £31.00. NRs: Hartequin Valle. Higgs Surphina. Places of: £768.40. Quadoot: £72.80. Place &: £240.50. Place 5: £128.38.

Place 6: £246.50. Place 5: £128.38.

It Trainer Steve Golfings was anony after the stewards referred him to Portunal Suparr over his withdrawal of in Truth at Doncaster. The stewards were not happy over the golding's withdrawal with a wist scendingth. Stewards secretary Anthony Gillam said: "There were no problems with the certificate itself, but the stewards weren't happy, with the circumstances auroending u, it is true that Mr Golfings had been telephoning in the morning checking on the greend." Golfings said: "I'm annoyed timy we done this."





Mountbrowne has luck on his side

Ireland sends over serious representation for the main races of the day at Cheltenham this afternoon, though it is difficult here was a pittance." ato decipher whether they are here for the money or just a re-

the countries separated by the Irish Sea mean that animals There can never be peaceful from the land of Arkle no longer have to be ferried regularly to Britain in search of meaningful return.

here has improved a lot, so there is not so much need to travel," reach, that of his nation's outstanding trainer. Ted Walsh, the Irish commenbe at Christmas that you had to go the King George [VI Chase at Kempton], but now we've got a £50,000 chase at Leopardstown [the Ericcson Chase] and other races worth tens of thousands. 20 years ago they were

worth £1,000 a time. Okay, Cheltenham is still the Park this afternoon as he tries

HAYDOCK

more to go after all the prizes. Arkle had to do it in his heyday because the prize money over Ted Walsh is Ireland's one-

man job centre. The former connaissance mission in ad- champion amateur rider is now vance of the Festival in March. a trainer, borse dealer, writer The developing economics of and broadcaster to name just a smattering of his postings. nights then for either the butcher, baker or candlestick maker near his Greenhills yard at Prize money over jumps has in Co Kildare, though there is one job out of Walsh's

standing trainer. Whenever this honour comes tator, said yesterday. "It used to along it a seems to be bestowed on a chap by the name of O'Brien. On the Flat, in the old days, Vincent was nonpareil, now Aidan (no relation) is soaring higher than a swift.

O'Brien has a runner in both the Tripleprint Gold Cup and the Bula Hurdle at Prestbury big one, but there is no need any to improve on a mediocre ear-

Richard Edmondson says the big race at Cheltenham can go to an Irish raider

ly record in Britain. "When have that many runners away Aidan goes over to England he's from your own racing."
taking on decent horses in deO'Brien's runner in the cent races, and it's not like over here where he has the bulk browne, who has enjoyed the of the runners and he's winning a lot of little races as well, Walsh explained. "Twe no doubt that, if he was based in England, he would take the place by

"It's a bit like saying that Martin Pipe hasn't dominated racing in Ireland, even though he's done it at home. You don't Mountbrowne (next best 2.40)

Sound Reveille doubly engaged

a half miles for the first time.

should Nahthen Lad, whose stable

The chaser Sound Reveille is engaged twice today, the first preference is for the 1.25 race at Cheltenham and the second preference is for the 1.15 at Haydock.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Tullymurry Toff (Haydock 1.45) NB: Royal Mountbrowne (Cheltenham 2.40)

pearance effort under his belt, a bolder show is on the cards today, though whether he can overcome will be there at the finish. But eachway value may be found with MARCHANT MUNG. This fourthe classy ONE MAN is doubtful. year-old showed a lot of promise last season and can be expected to show improved form now he tries two and

Tripleprint is Royal Mount-

sort of kind fortune this season

for which his land is proverbially

rendered to him at Clonmel and

Fairyhouse, and Imperial Call,

the Gold Cup winner, also

threw himself to earth at the lat-

ter track with victory seeming-

recognised. Merry Gale sur-

CHELTENHAM 1.35: CAROLE'S CRUSADER, who beat Flying Gunner by nine lengths in a three miles contest at Ascot recently, looks a useful staying hurder in the making and will be hard to beat. Southern Nights may prove the 2.15: Rough Quest is said to be big and burly for his seasonal debut, however, and should be watched, as biggest danger.

has been out of form. Kadi was nev-er put into the race when a 27-length 2.05: LARGE ACTION, who beat third behind Dublin Flyer at Win-Cockney lad by a comprehensive six lengths in the Grade One Hatton's

Grace Hurdle over 21/2 miles at Fairyhouse earlier in the month, looks a class above today's rivals. Al-though he may be better for the run. Pridwell looks the chief threat.

hick holds, he may repel the ob-

O'Brien's Theatreworld has

vious favourite, Addington Boy.

no chance of beating Large

Action in the Bula Hurdle on

the evidence of their meeting in

the Hatton's Grace Hurdle at

Fairyhouse earlier this month,

but it may be another runner is

worth following here. Pridwell

(1.45) runs well at Cheltenham

(he was third in the Champion

Hurdle last March) and as he

will travel from Martin Pipe's

yard his belly is unlikely to he

scraping the floor on this his sea-

sonal debut. He is worth a

chance, particularly as he won

on his comeback in the

At Haydock, there should be

a stirring contest for the Tom-my Whittle Chase when One

Man takes on Quixall Crossett.

The latter may just have to give

second best in this conditions

race, as in a handicap One Man would have to give him the

best part of eight stone. For this

Cotswolds last year.

000 2.49: ADDINGTON BOY, who ran a creditable race on his reappearance to be about four lengths third to Challenger Du Luc and the subsequent First National Bank Handicap Chase winner Strong Promise in the Murphy's Gold Cup Handicap Chase over 2m 4f 110yd on the Old course here in November, can make his class count over the extra 110 yards on the

New course. The progressive Berton may be the danger.

reason, Gordon Richards 6 grey

is given marginal preference at

a time of year, and around a

course he enjoys. Even Imperial Call would struggle to match

Rough Quest, the Grand National winner, will be many people's idea as the one for the

him in these circumstances.

forecast, especially as Jenny Pitman's Nahthen Lad will now

be without his regular jockey.

Warren Marston was injured in

a schooling accident on the

gallops yesterday and his seat on

the Sun Alliance Chase winner

Earlier there will be one of racing's more exhibitating sights

as Chay County (1.15) blasts off

in front and attempts to get

home before the petrol runs out.

while there are prospects, too, for a horse who runs his races

the other way round. No animal

has been able to resist the

stealthful thrusts of TULLY-

MURRY TOFF (nap 1.45) re-

cently and he should now record

his fifth consecutive victory.

is taken by Rodney Farrant.

3.15: GENERAL PONGO, who won a novices' handicap chase by 1½ lengths from Whirly at Bangor last time, is marginally preferred to Im-perial Vintage, who is proven over these testing fences but came to grief on his latest venture.

Balanak in a 2m 3f handicap hurdle at Warwick, can go one better. Mandys Mantino looks the threat

3.45: KARSHI, 11/4 lengths second to

1.15: Bold-jumping Clay County made all the running to win bere in January. On the same handicap mark now, Russ Garritty's mount is capable of setting up a big lead and is often hard to catch. POLITICAL TOWER was runner-up in this race last year off a 9lb lower mark. But the eight-year-old's fencing has improved since and his rider, Tim Reed, will be aiming to deliver a decisive late challenge,

1.45: Home Counties was the victor in this highly competitive eveni 12

HAYDOCK

12.45 Sanmartino

1.15 Political Tower 1.45 Marchant Ming

HYPERION

Course is near junction of A580 and M6. Newton sention 2m, ADMISSION: Pack Soine (viewing restaurant) 52%; County Stand 516; Tattersalls 59 (OAPs & Students 54.50); New-

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS; G Richards — 30 winners from 100 runners goves n success ratio of 30,2% and n loss to a \$1 level stake of \$10.18; M O Pipe — 27 win-

goves 15 success ratio of 50.2% and a four to \$2.1 fever states to \$2.15% in O Figs = 27 win-opers, 124 maners, 21.8%, -534.51; J G FitnGerald = 13 winners, 48 runners, 27.1%, +514.63; -2m M Reveley = 12 winners, 57 mmcrs, 52.3%, -59.71. IL LEADING JOCKEYS: E Dunwoody = 20 wins, 69 rides, 29%, -512.41; M Dwyer = 17 wirs, 110 rides, 16.0%, -550.00; D Bridgwater = 11 wirs, 39 rides, 28.2%, +58.89; A Magaire

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Drakewrath (12.45) has been sent 278 miles by R Bartlett

from Airdrie, Strathelyde; Tibeton (1.45) sent 342 miles by Ludy Henries from Augmening Park, West Sussex; Rough Quest (2.15) sent 221 miles by T Casey from Beare Green, Sur-rey; Silver Shred (1.45) sent 308 milgg by M Pipe from Nicholastayase, Devon.

BETTING: 11-10 Sangartino, 11-2 Daynt, 7-1 Quango, 8-1 Bollin Frank, 10-1 Galen, 12-1 Facean,

- 11 wins, 52 rides, 21.2%, 420.63, BLINKERED FIRST TIME: King Mat (visceed, 12.45), Eurolink Shadow (3.25).

Left-hand course with imposing drop fences and run-in of two furlongs.

on Stand £1 (OAPs & Students £2), CAR PARK: Free,

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nooe.

2.15 One Man

3.25 Auburn Boy

2.50 THURSDAY NIGHT (nap)

HYPERION'S

months ago and seems sure to get the strongly run race that suits him best. He will find it hard against some up-and-coming horses this time, though. Thillymurry Toff is pursuing his fifth successive victory and despite, heing. The higher fee his laters rice. being 71b higher for his latest win,

canton last month. With that reap-1.15 PETROS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 E

FORM GUIDE

Political Tower comes here in top form efter Ayr and Newcestle victories and he finished a long way clear of CLAY COUNTY when fourth to Arctic Kinsman at Ambree on Grand Nextonal day. However, Clay County did not may up to his best in thet event, which was run at a seorching pace and he tild not help his cause when blundering the out. He was eased once all chance had gone. This genuine and consistent front-nunear was some five lengths clear, only to blunder body and turseent at the final force at Perth four weeks size Aintree — leaving Political Tower to best Wee River 19 lengths, Clay County meets Political Tower on 9th more severable terms and lost no caste in defeat when beaten 10 lengths by Super fisciles 8t Kempton on his return. The winner clipped the two-mile course record that day and Clay County was giving him 33ts (including the riding allowance). Sybitime and Nexthe Mission, who are both trained by Jamy Fireforable, were both useful chasers but they have not been out for a long time and may need this outing.

Selection: CLAY COUNTY

1.45 TOTE MULTIBET HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 641-974 HOME COUNTIES (1.4) (CD) (Roy Chemes (Delton) Ltd) O Modiat, 7 11 12 ____ D J Modiat; 121/206 - EUTRESS GET (296) (C) OH Homeoff Young/D Arnold Mrs M Reveley 7 11 8 ____ N Smith; 1205-30 "Hemmon Young (Laby 105) (C) (D) (Ed McSmith) N Hendesson 7 11 5 _____ R Johnson 21- TIBERNN (343) (Lady Hendes) Lady Hendes 4 11:1 _____ R Demondry EDN (343) (Lady He

TULLYNUTRRY TOFF is 7th higher than when going in by three and a half lengths from Myt-TULLYNBURRY TOFF is 7th higher then when going in by three and a half lengths from Myton's Choice hore three weeks ago but tooked booked for further success that day. House Counties took the corresponding event 1.2 months ago off the same mark as today's, detecting Pridwell and Spartly Gayle a head and a length and a quarar. Dudley Moffart's runner, who had five Fet races this year, finished a length third to Chief's Song at Kempton in October on his ratum. He fell at the first next time but finished 2.1 lengths in front of Marchaet. Ming when they were fourth and fifth to Space Trucker in the Fighting Fifth. Burst lamp, who went in at Wesheddy on his return and followed up at Ayr, divided Arazum and Delly Boy in a driving finish here a fortnight ago. He is up 4th but can egain figure. Selver Shred's accred over two miles here and at today's trip at Aintree last tarm and she will be the better for last month's Chepstaw third behind Caste Sweers. Thertam, a dozen lengths clear of the third when a three-length second to Our Kris on his hurding debut at Newbury 1.3 months ago, went one better at Sandown in January on his only other start. Many Revelory rura Unclaid Doug, twice successful on the Plat this year but well beaten against Sechrica at Newcastle 11 days ago, and Express Gift, whose three wire in 1994-95 included one here and who had an outing on the Flat at Doncaster last month.

Selection: TULLYMURRY TOFF

2.15 TOMMY WHITTLE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 E

RETIRES: 4-5 One Man, 5-1 Relation Ltd, Kadi, 7-1 Rough Quest, 15-2 Conduit Se Betier, 26-1 Even Sies, 500-1 Quicoli Crossett 1995: One Man 7 11 2 M Dayer 1-3 (6 Richerick) 5 cm

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Rough Quest will be racing for the first time since he gained Grand National glory when defecting Encore Un Peu a length and a querter, and, not surprisingly, the 10-year-old is thought likely to need this outing. Before Aintree, Rough Quest had Couldn't like Better 19 lengths adhift in third when a four-length nurver-up in the Gold Cup with ONE MANI, who went off the 11-8 feworitie, a big top — firsting south, 34 lengths off the winner, Gordon Richards' grey clearly was not himself at Chetaninam, weakening quickly between the last two. He had won his three preceding reces lest neeson, including today's price by 11 lengths from Monsieur Le Cure on route to his scintillating King George trumph, and he has scored three times over these bough tences in all. One Man looked as good as ever when coming home by seven lengths at Westerby six weeks ago on his return and, despite giving weight all hound, should again show the way home before going for a second King George on Boding Day. Neithbee Lad scored four innes from six starts test term, including the Sun Aliance Chase and a noweet event over course and distance, but he has not reced since Chetaninem and and a nowces' event over course and distance, but he has not raced since Cheltenhern and he is likely to need the run. Kedil, the 1995 Mildmay of Flera victor, missed last season and will have come on to bis opening third to Dublin Flyer at Humbraton. Salactions: ONE MAI

440	HART CO	the feet that obeing and in populit take or tubins from Someone out was
3	2.50	OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds
		SANTA CONCERCIO (288) (John Cos) Lillingo 7 11 10
2		BEACHY HEAD (LA) the Tabor J.J. O'Noil B 11, 9
3	44000-2	PROPERTY LEA (14) (BF) (Mentdale Const Ltd) Mrs M Reveloy 8 11 4
4.		JOCALS, CROSS (35) (Mrs. Cill Harrison) & Richards 5 11,4
5	5408-22	HECH GRADE (24) (C) (John Pointon) Mas S Wilmin 8 11 0
8	24-4313	DALLY BOY (1.4) (BF) (T H Bernett) T Easterby 4 10 13
7	14/01P/-	JOHNANY KELLY (645) (C.) Murphyl J Carr 9 10 10
8		MICK THE BEAK (7) (SIr Nicholas Wilson) John R Upson 7 10 8
9	2021-4F	THURSDAY MICHT (8) (R Haggest J Russeald 5 10 8
10		FAST THOUGHTS (12) (W H Dord) O Gandolfo 9 10 7

BETTING: 11-4 locks Cross, 6-1 Sally Boy, 11-2 Sents Co Night, 10-1 High Grade, 12-1 Nick The Benk, 16-1 Others 1995: Greet Easeby 5 10 7 R McGrath 7-1 (W Storey) 14 ran

7	SE	STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUMBERS CON	DITIONAL JOCK-
•	-25	STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUMBERS CON EYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000	0 added 2m
	1065-21	SANG CIEL (USA) (24) (CD) (Tam Racing) F Jordan 8 11, 10	D J Keramagh
	33/1-452	AUBURN BOY (11) (D) (G E Shoulet) M W Easterby 8 11.3	P Middley
	121213	SUAS LEAT (32) (D) (Mrs J M Davencort) J Jefferson 8 11.2	
	000-15	ETERNAL CITY (Rd) (RE) (R Tyrer) & Richards 5 10 4	M Dorme (3)
	0/60121	TIP IT IN (10) (D) (Mrs. M Durning) A Smith 7 10 3	N Horocks (3)
		GRANDMAN (15) (F Hewer) O Motatt 5 10 2	
		EUROLINK SHADOW (35) (D McCain) D McCain 4 10 0	
		- 7 declared -	
E	TING: 5-2	Saint Cloi, 11-4 Auturn Boy, 7-2 Tip R in, 5-1 Suns Lest, 8-1 E	ornal City, 18-1 Grand-

LINGFIELD HYPERION

DAUNT (Supercent and & Farm Buildings Ltd F Jordan 4 11 0 .

3-P5 DRAKENRATH (12) (R A Berdett) R Bendett B 11 0

13 OP23P3: NRTARA (679) (Aris G S Rees) Copy J Wellon 9 1.1 0

04-0 OESYOUS RISK (12) (Aris Harris Wildomhead) E Coine 5 1.1 0

QUANGO O, Miligary J Traderoid 4 1.1 0

SANMARTIMO (K Abdulla) O Nicholeon 4 1.1 0

18 O424 52

THREE WILD DAYS (22) (SF) (The My Syndaula) T Tain 4 1.1 0

19 O424 52

14-1 Shared Risk, 20-1 Lasto Adree, 25-1 others 1996: Court Equaty 5 11 0 J F Tidey 7-1 (Andrew Turnell) 14 ten

F232 52 FASSAN (7) 04HOG Racing M Hammond 4 11.0 ...

12.10 Potentate 12.40 Five To Seven 1.10 Circus Star 1.40 Pleasure Shared 2.10 Bells Life 2.45 Strong Paladin 3.20 Season Splendour GOING: Great to Soft - hurdle course; Good to Soft (Good in pinces)

M LCH-hami, undustring course.

Course to with-east of flown on B2028, Lingdeld station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$13, Tailersalls 51. CAR PARK: Club \$3; remainder free.

SIS RACHO CHANNEL

BLINERRED FIRST TRIE: Treasure Again (1.40), Have To Think (2.10) Sensonal Splendour (visored, 3.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: The Last Fling (1.40) when me is the last SE bit DAIS: The Last Fling (1.40) with at Wellath; on Saturday.

LONG, DISTANCE RUNNERS: Certic Silver (12.40) & The Last Fling (1.40) have last sent 238 miles by Mrs S Smith from High Ebitaric, West Verkshire.

12.10 TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 110yds

— 3 declared – BKTTB19: 4-7 Potentiale, 6-1 Kadastrof, 7-1 Tarrock, 8-1 Court Nap. 10-1 Smblessie, 14-1 Hawthorne Gien

12.40 PEAK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f 110yds

12 declard - 12 declard - 12 declard - 15 declard - 15 declard - 16 declard - 16 declard - 17 declard - 18 de 110 TH GROUP SUMMIT JUNIOR HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £15,000 added 340

BIGHER & MARY 10 12 Microson 10 12 A Magain CRICUS STAR (50) (8F) 3 Northbox 10 12 A Magain 4 CRECIS STAR (SO) (ST) 3 Nucroleon 10 12 A Magaire
6 Mart WED (21) S Nucroleon 10 12 D Bridgenter
7 3 PROVINCE (10) C Marri 10 12 D Robber
8 30: SERENUS (10) N HYDERON 10 12 D Robber
9 APARTIMENTS ARROAD N McAudife 10 7 Dearth Ryme
10 Sealur's TARNS 1 Major 10 1 Microland
10 Sectored D Magaire 11 4 Circuis Star, 7-5 Regard, 7-2 Serence, 5-1 Mr 1984, 7-1
Newson, 13-1 A Circle For, 14-1 Ben Bourden, 16-1 pitters

1.40 LOWNDES LAMBERT DECEMBER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £20,000

— 11. declared — BETTNO: 3-1. Piconure Shared, Pharmoor, 5-1. The Last Filing, 11-2 Buck-touse Soy, 7-1 Treasure Again, Sunkhead, 8-1. Pantors Overhead, 18-1

2.10 TH GROUP LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3m

- B Anchared -BETTING: 5-2 Sounds Strong, 7-2 Bells Life, 4-1 No Poin No Gain, 8-1 Have To Think, 13-2 Fellow Countryssan, 10-1 Sheer Abilly, 13-1 Terao,

2.45 BIFFA RECYCLING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 54654 CHAPILLERE (FR) (681) 7 Thomson Jones 6 10 12... CRANE (901 (389) P Hobbs 6 10 12 CUTHELL HOPE M Tomplers 5 10 12 Richard Gases EAU SO SLOE (368) Jernie Poulson 5 10 12 A Dichard

21-UL MARCHING MARQUIS (29) Mod T Charge 5 10 127 J March (199-2 MARGET MAYNESS (15) J Speeding 5 10 12 _____ D Bridgeston 42 MYTHICAL APPROACH (49) (3F) 0 Nicholon 8 10 12 _____ 0040 NISHMAN (17) N Herdeson 5 10 12

() 14 MARKE (14) Mrs Media Jones 5 10 7Derek Byra - 18 declared -DETENDS: 9-2 Mythical Approach, 5-1 Marching Marquis, 11-2 Strong Pal arts, 8-1 Crane HE, 10-1 Juleo Justice, The Proms, 12-1 others 3.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 3f 110yds

BETTING: 8-4 Sentonel Spinnbur, 7-2 Recircliffe Led, 4-1 Stoney Val loy, 8-1 Tickerty's GPR, 8-1 More Dain Thuncask, 14 Never Forgetten.

12.15 Art Prince 12.45 Endov nt 1.20 Blaze Away 1.50 Scotton Banks 2.25 Epidos 3.00 Fight Lieutenant 3.30 Bold Action GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). ELeft-hand, peer-shaped course.

ELeft-hand, peer-shaped course.

Course is E of sown off the ASSS (MIS Jons 3 & 4). Bus link from Donessier Central station. ADMISSION: Club £14; Grandsmand £5; Family Enclosure £3 (under-16s free all enclosures).

CAR PARE: Pree.

BLINESKED VIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Calleva Star (12.15) has been sen 235 miles by R Alner from Droop, Somerset, Castle Courageous (1.20) sext 224 miles by Lady Herries from Angmering Park, West

12.15 FORGIVEN FORGET MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 3f 110yds 032F ART PRINCE (IA) C Brooks 6 11.8 M Berry (7) 694-44 CALLEVA STAR (16) R Ainer 5 11.8 P Honley (3) O DOMANE DE PRON (FR) (12) Mrs L Taylor 5 11.8 P45P2FP OLD REDWOOD (18) Mrs L Williamson 9 11 8... POSO-U2 ROYAL HAND (SIG) R Armson 8 11 8... 658003 REEFR'S MILL (LA) J Novine 4 10 10... - 9 declared - .

SETTING: 7-4 Dules Mondow, 3-1 Art Prince, 6-1 College Stor, Slaves
gitz, 12-1 Reefe's Mill, Royal Hand, 16-1 Old Redwood, 25-1 others

12.45 RACECOURSE MEDICAL OFFICERS AS-SOCIATION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

ADVANCE EAST (38) (D) M Date 4 11.5 ... PRODUMENT (29) 65 Me in Parallel 4 4 2010 (14) (2) Mrs V Ward 5 11 5. ___Mr R Thon TEM PAST SIX Margo Wass 4 10 12 _____ Mr C Bonner (3) DETTRIC: 100-30 Endowment, 4-1 keio, 6-1 Sen Victor, 7-1 Taintheth, 18-2 Kildrammy Cacile, 10-1 Advance East, 12-1 Ten Part Sin, 18-1 Rising man, 25-1 others

1.20 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSOR-SHIP CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f CAUTLE COLEMBEROS (14) Lady Harder 8 12 0...

(1)P+31 MARK AMAY (10) (20) 1 Baking 5 11 9 Mr A Baking (7) 1760-66 MONECASMAN (20) A lerve 5 10 11 0222-00 SANNIN MISSION (7) 7 Sanistry 4 10 3 = 4 cucined ~ DESTING: events Bloom /joury, 3-1 Chethe Courageous, 7-2 Monica 5-1 Coura Mission

1.50 DIKLER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B)

Sty 6st 4th, Pints Gurner 6st 2th. BETTHER: 6-4 Scotton Ranks, 5-2 Monthermonardy, 7-2 Plans Con

2.25 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 110yds 1 144FR6 NON VNOTAGE (7) (D) M Chapman 5 11 10 ... W Worthlagton
2 441-111 7006 BRODE (21) (D) J Howard Johnson 8 11 8 ... IN Supple

00-F4F0 THORNTON EATE (7) (CD) T Exercity 7 11 8.

111-354 ELPIDOS (7) (D) M Hammond 4 11 0 Mr C Bonser (3)

3.00 BURROUGH HILL LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 110yds 22010-1 FUGHT LIEUTENANT (IA) (D) T Casey 7 11 7 __ J A McCarthy (5-1/13 GOLDEN HELLO (N) (D) T Easterby 5 11 7 _____ A Novan 111214 COUNTRY STAY (20) C Brods 5 11 2 _____ M Bury (7) 3100-4() WESPERY (10) M Barrachugh 7 11 2 _____ B Hogas (3) SETTER: 8-4 Country Star, 2-1 Flight Lientenant, 11-4 Solden Hollo, 15-1

3.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMOGROW! NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 110vds EASTCLETE W McKeout 411 4_ _G F Rean (5) D JEROSE'S PROSPECT (33) J J O'Neil 5 11.4. ...R MoGrath (5) IGNO OF CAMELOT O Nicholson 8 11 4. PRAN SMOOTHER J FizGerald 4 11,4. RASIN STANDARDS R CROSS 611.4... 5 REVOLT (11) TExsterby 4 11.4 Mr K Dunice (7) SHEMANG I Duzino 411.4... TARDAY JOY (17) J Moore 5 11.4 025- THE SHARROW LEGEND (232) 1 Semnon 4 11 4.

- 12 declared BETTING: 6-4 King of Cametot, 5-1 Pher Smoother, 6-1 Bold Action, Shehang, 8-1 Caberton, The Sherrow Lagond, 12-1 Revolt, 14-1 others

Crystal Spirit, racing for the first time since the 1995 Grand National, emerged with plenty of credit when finishing third to Cumbrian Challenge and Callison Bay at Doncaster yesterday. He was three lengths behind the runner-up, who was in turn narrowly beaten by the winner. Ian Balding, who trains the nine-year-old, said Crystal Spirit will now be aimed at the Betterware Cup at Ascot next Saturday. Cumbrian Chal-lenge, trained by Tim Easterby, challenged over the final two fences and just ontspeeded Callisoe Bay on the run in. The trainer's father, Peter, said: "This house has been a great servant though he's a bit of a monkey. Last year he lost his confidence after running at Liverpool."

2.40 Addington Boy (nb) 1.00 Lord Dorcet 1.35 Carole's Crusades 3.15 General Pongo

3.45 Karshi

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in piaces).

Left-hand, galloping course with staff fences. Uptill run-in.

Course is one rule routh of town off Ad:5. But link from Cheitenham rail station (served by Bristol. Burningham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Club & Tamerania combined 212 (uniors, 18-24 years 23, Students 20); Foster's Enclosure

2.05 Large Action

ELEADENG TEAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe — 31 winners from 243 runners gives a success ratio of 12.8% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 572.48; K Bailey — 19 winners, 37 rinners, 21.6%, -\$13.73; J Gifford — 18 winners, 106 runners, 17.8%, -\$25.73; N Henderson — 18 winners, 116 runners, 11.3%, -\$48.18.

EEADENG JOCKEYS: E Dunwoody — 38 winners, 202 rides, 18.8%, +\$5.33; A Magaire — 25 winners, 167 rides, 15.0%, -\$174.72; J Osborne — 24 winners, 160 rides, 15.0%, -\$55.17; N WHILAMBOON — 22 winners, 88 rides, 26.0%, +\$35.48.

HINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Royal Mountbrowne (2.30) won at Punchestown has Saturbay; Southern Nights (12.50) won at Towrester lost Saturbay; Long-Distrance Eunners and miles by Cankon from Stockefeld, Northumberland; Addington Boy (2.30) sent 280 miles by G Bichards from Greystoke, Cumbria.

| 1.00 | GEORGE STEVENS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 | added 2m 110 yds Penaity Value £6,665 | 420033 | DANCING PRODY (22 (D) (Bychance Racog K Cunningham-Brown B 11 10 _A Dobbin 142150 | (Benezi (28) (CD) (Terry Warner) P hobbs 9 11 9 ______ N Williamon 9 | 142134 | 50000 REVRULE (14) (CD) (Mrs G Abectessi C Brooks B 11 5 ______ G Beneley | 12234F | 1000 DORCEY (7) (D) (John Fegg) Conston 6 10 10 ______ J Outcome

ETIDIO: 7-4 Kibreet, 9-4 Lord Dorcet, 3-1 Dancies Paridy, 9-2 Scenet Reveld 1.35 BRISTOL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £15,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,960 5.15,000 added 3m 110yds Pensity Value £9,960
5.P211 SOURLESH NIGHTS (7) (0) II Pensit R Budy 8 11 4
023,241 SPACSME 60LD (10) (2) (datum Datest) (14 7 11 4
060,132 TARRS WRIVE (10) (11 Tarrest Spandarte C Marin 5 11 4
04-26 TAI A CHEPTY (15) (3) (1 Tarrest G Spandarte C Marin 5 11 4
04 UNIGHTS CREST (8) (0) Husbyl R Debn 5 11 0
61 NOT FOR TURNOWS (24) (1 Tarrest Fings) 0 Scenood 5 11 0
7 FC012 QUEEN'S AWARD (27) (0) (87) (A Price R Busker 7 11 0
3442-11 CARDUES CRISADER (22) (0) (47) (A Price R Busker 7 11 0
3442-11 CARDUES CRISADER (22) (0) (47) (A Price R Busker 7 11 0
3442-11 CARDUES CRISADER (22) (0) (10) (10 Tarrest Pensity O Gardotto 5 10 13
4 2452-11 CALDISON JAME (12) (8) L Birmony P Nebols 6 10 9
7 9 dectand EFTIDRE 7-4 Carole's Crustader, 9-2 Southern Hights, Not For Turning, 9-1 Spandard
Makes, 13-1 Salatand Jame, 18-1 others J Magne B

mertman: 7-4 Carole's Cresseder, 9-2 Southern High

FORM GUIDE

With SQUITHERN NIGHTS and Cerolo's Crusader chasing har-trebs, something has got to give and it might be the mere that does. Southern Nights has made rapid progress this season and had Speceage Gold more than 1.1 lengths beach in fourth when scoring over this trip at Towcester three weeks. The winning margin of five lengths would have been for greener if his saddle had not started to stip and he followed up with another good performance by giving 10th to Fine Sir there over these furiongs less there less Setunday, Fine Sir had chased home the subsequent winner Forest livery in his previous race and thet is smart form. A measure of how fast Cerole's Crusader is improving is that the got back up to best Flying Guriner by a short-head at Strationd (2m 6f 110yd) first time out this season, yet had no touble after making all to draw right away and beat ham by nine lengths over this trip at Ascot three weeks later. Before his fourth behind Southom Nights at Towcester, Spaceage Gold had stayed on to be second to the easy winner Queen's Award at Newboy. There is not much doubt he will reverse that form on 18th better terms, yet Tarris Budge ought to be able to average his length defeat by Spaceage Gold over three and a quarter miles here last month with his 8th putt. Selection: SOUTHERN NICHTS

BONUSPRINT BULA HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) 2.05 BONUSPRINI BULL 11 15 535,000 added 2m 1f N William 140 - 1864 WM (277) COTE NACCOS R RENTON S 11 4 N Williamson S 124-13 THEATREWORD (139 MS John Magnet) A (Then (6) 4 11 2 CF Swall S 131/1.43 BMSEY (343) (Adam J R)30) R Alerburs 6 11.0 G Bradley 7 R24/60 MORESH (306) (5) (Adam Fuporock) J Whee 6 11.0 M A Fittgerald 8 4U2212 MORESPOCK (12) (Mrs M Farbarru R Hodge 6 11.0 S McHall — 8 Metared — BETINER 11-10 Large Action, 5-1 Pridwell, 7-1 Theatreworld, Right Win, 8-1 Bismaey, 10-1 Masse, 14-1 Mass

FORM GUIDE

It is just possible Blankey could upset LARGE ACTION on this faster ground and minimum trip, although after Lorge Action's impressive correback in ireland after a year off, Other Sherwood's eight-year-old seems as good as ever, However, he will need to be because two miles on fast ground really does not suit him these days, if the Champion Hurdiews run over two-and-a-hair miles he would probably have won instead of being placed in 1994 and 1995. He had Theatreworld (Ait worse in) strugging in his wake back in third at Fairhouse (2m 4f) 13 days ago and, with Make to help set a good paid, his his rea. Bainsey, so impressive in winning a bendicap on last ground at Authree 13 morths ago, went up 16th for that, yet suit put in a good run when fourth to Cher's Song at Sendown next time. Pridwell, subsequently thard in this year's Champion Hurdle, was three lengths behind at Sendown and 5th worse in here. That is too simplistic a wew, of course, but Birnery was third behind Colling the subsequently and the second and the second for this instituting all through, Right Win was a classy sort on the Flat and was being talked of in Champion Hurdle terms after winning at Sandown first time out last season. That proved ambitious and he also needs cut in the ground to be seen at his best. Selection; LARGE ACTION

2.40 TREPLEPRENT GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £60,000 added 2m 5f

FORM SURDE

It is hard to get away from ADDSNGTON BDY after his fine comeback behind Challenger

Du Luc and Strong Fromise in the Murphy's here thur weeks ago. Not only did that show
lest acason's impressive progress had been meintained, he would have finished closer if
the had not been put off when Dublins Piyer sloped up on the final bend. Despite all that,
Addingon Boy still finished the tengins clear of Anabastic (30b better In), who did not appeer to get up the hill after being in contention coming to the lest, while slig Mants, the
surpress favourite, was taked off in sixth after failing to handle the slippery surface. It could
be that Big Matt is worth another chance, but he does not have the best of records have.
Anabasic apart, there is a strong Irish challenge from Royal Mountbrowne and Behvederies. These between these lest month with the result song Royal Mountbrowne's way
such time. The margin was only five lengths at Clonmel, however, and a 120 pull gives
Belvedetien a good each-way chance. Apparently he will be happer with this faster ground,
daspite a winning record to the contrary. Ou Universal, much improved last season, went
well for a long way until falling at Newbury on his reeppearance, but the bagger danger is
Old Bridge, last season's Mildmay Of Flete winner.

Selection: ADDINGTON BOY

3.15 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 CA

FORM CUIDE On his test visit here IMPERIAL VZNTAGE was left to finish alone in a match, his skith win of the season, though the danger this time a that General Pongo might be the one left in splendid leolation of Impenal Virtuge repeats his mishap at the very first at Lecester on Wednesday, General e clear round, though, he should best General Pongo on this taster ground. The latter's Bargor win, much improved as it was - be is also open to plenty of improvement - came with plenty of cut in the ground. Selection: IMPERIAL VINTAGE

3.45 LONESOME GLORY HURDLE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 4f 1111-11 MANDYS MANTRIO (12) (C) (D) (John Pecient) J Gelord 8 11.7 P Hide 11-3112 SEMENTY PRAYER (150) (150) (der Eiger Scott A) F Bruce Affer 3 11.7 Chip Miller 1052F1. AGNIVELL BOY (221) (A 85 Rodon) P Hobbs 6 10 12 N

- 4 declared -BETUNG: 6-4 Mandys Martino, 7-4 Astroni Boy, 3-1 Serenity Prayer, 8-1 Kershi

FORM SLIDE.

Nearbys Mentino manteined his unlocates record at Newbury on his reappearance. Had Sereolty Prayer jumped the third lest clearly over two males here last month that record would definitely have fallen, as it was by only half a length that the American challenger failed get up. KARSHI has a good chance of toppling both. Lest year's storreg-finishing third behind thuberade in the Sun Alliance Novices' Huntle reappeared at Warranch a fornight ago and, having got the better of his battle up front with Alyton's Choice, was surpress in the first Job yearts by Salansis. Astweed Boy comes was in to the realizing in he is straight enough on his first run in seven months.

Selection: KARSHI

TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP - 10-YEAR-TALE Longistizations whiter Propert David 14-1 (1903) Top Trainer, Clipt 7 A Region (2): Pegend Bay (1988); Distric Poin (1994) Top Joches: B Points (2): Pegendi Sag (1988), Qubin Riyer (1994), Kathandahad: P glutted up: 1 Joint fescontes

New race order

Cheltenham has altered the running order of today's Tripleprint Gold Cup meeting and put back the start by 10 minutes in a bid to make the Chan-

nel 4 coverage more attractive. It has swapped the four-run-ner George Stevens Handicap Chase, which was due to open the five-race TV programme, with the Bristol Novices' Hurdle, which has drawn a field of



Brighton are 11 points adrift at the bottom of the League, heavily in debt, soon to be homeless and facing a revolt from their own fans. Steve Gritt was offered the job of managing them this week. **Glenn Moore** asked him why he accepted

The man with the hardest job in football

itting in Steve Gritt's oew of-fice yesterday afternoon, you have to ask him. "Why?" The answer is brutally honest.

But it is not any old job. Manag-ing Brighton and Hove Albioo is widely regarded as the toughest job in football. Liz Costa, vice-chair of Brightoo's Supporters' Club calls it the "hardest joh any manager has

She may be biased but she is not exaggerating. This morning Brighton are 11 points adrift at the foot of the Third Division. They have large debts, they lose their ground in May, and the support is alienated. There is not even the safety net of a rebuttal for the Conference champions. Brighton are more likely to be rejected by the Conference and sent straight down to the Dr Martens' League - and probable closure.

So, 48 hours into the job, is the affable Gritt having second thoughts.
"I'm finding it OK so far," he said hrightly. "The players have responded very well. The first morning each of us were testing the water, sitting back and getting used to one another. This morning I've

had to do a lot of work and they have

Wheo I left Charlton she was inint-manager with Alan Curbishley before being sacked 18 months ago] it was the first time I have been out of work and out of football. f have beeo very keen to get back. When the chance came up, even though it was here with all the problems, I felt it was a chance I could not turn

The "problems"... a brief recap in case any of Michael Knightoo's alieo friends have just returned from Mars. Thirteen years ago, as Gordon Smith so evocatively recalled in these pages a month ago, they were a shot away from beating Manchester United in the FA Cup final. That came at the end of four seasons in the old First Division and engeodered hope of a quick return.

Instead they slipped through the divisions and into the red, imperiled by had performances on the pitch and at the bank. The historic but ageing ground - parts of it look more like the derelict West Pier than a football stadium - has been sold and the proceeds apparently squandered. Having hought the club for £56.25 the chairman, Bill Archer, spends his time in Lancashire and refuses to sell to a consortium backed by supporters. Hove Council and McAlpine.

The supporters have thus run a



Ground control: Steve Gritt, the new Brighton manager, surveys his new domain at the Goldstone Ground yesterday

to concentrate solely on the football. I have not come to get wrapped up in all the politics, football is my busi-

"People turn around and say, You must get involved, surely? But I made it clear at the interview that I have not come bere to be anybody's puppet. I bave come bere to work with the players on the training ground which is something I have

missed more than anything.
"I hope the supporters will get behind the lads. If the players do what I hope they will do, what I am try-ing to get them to do, and they roll their sleeves up and match Hull for effort their ability will come through. If the fans see that they are having a go they will appreciate it.

"I understand what the fans are

ton when we had to leave The Valley. They've been coming bere for ars, it's a tradition thing. Suddenly that's been taken away from them. But if they can get behind the team the players will appreciate it. I'll ap-preciate it."

The 39-year-old Gritt was aptly named. As a player he was a grafter rather than a stylist. He played 406 League games in a 16-year career. all but 26 of them with Charlton whom he represented in every positioo except goalkeeper. He was theo co-manager for four years before being unexpectedly sacked after a change at boardroom level.

Giveo the resources Charltoo were very successful under Gritt and Curbishley but recognition was slow. In his book Left Foot Forward Garry

cent. I've been there. I was at Charl- Nelson recalls Graham Taylor, when at Wolves, introducing Curbishley to John de Wolf with the line, "I doo't

think you've met Steve Gritt". The shared roles, and Gritt's oneclub career, bas made work hard to find. He even applied to be Charltoo's youth team coach this summer. "I've kept myself busy going to games, that was a piece of advice I was giveo - 'be seen'. I also got my boots on again playing for Welling and Tooting and Mitcham but that got in the way of the scouting."

The scouting, and some youth coaching, was mainly for Gillingham though he recently watched Brighton for Torquay.

They looked capable of scoring, but also of letting them in. I want them to play with discipline but freedom as well. If they can do that and

Photograph; Robert Hallam

relax a bit I think they can get results.
"It takes time but I have not go that much time. It is not like coming in at the start of the seasoo, Christmas is one of the busiest times to come in, it is games, games, games. It does not give much time to work with players because obviously they have to resuperate. It is a careful juggling act. I have piled a load of information into them this morning - only time will tell how much as gone in.

"I've got some money available: How much will depend on what I oeed. I may have to do some wheeling and dealing.

down. You think when is the next

point coming? A lot of them will be

The situation has not helped, nor has the fact that they have not won many games. It starts to grind you

thinking when is the next bonus coming? They've got families and mort-

But it is not just about money, it is about pride as well. One lad has already said to me when you are losing every week it is difficult to go home. It is like any job, if you feel you have done a good week's work, you have a weekend off and come in looking for another good week. Football's no different."

Again, Gritt's been there, when Charlton nearly went bust in 1984. "I remember sitting in the supporters' club. We were waiting with all our gear to go to Blackburn and the game got called off because they thought we were going out of busi-

You wonder, "Will I get paid? I could be out of work tomorrow, if can affect you but the resilience the players showed - that was the season we got promoted.
"Look at what Charlton have

achieved, even though they had the rigmarole of leaving The Valle years ago they were two weeks from

'Somebody had to come in and get hold of the team otherwise the whole thing will crumble

going out of business. Maybe the supporters here can look at that and take some encouragement.

"Hopefully I can organise the

team to start getting results which is what it is all about. I've got experienced players who I will be looking to to set and example and some good youngsters, I'm told the underlying crop are very good so, on the pitch, the inture looks hopeful."

But which pitch? We now war across the Goldstone for the pho-

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Ravanelli tells

of his Boro

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tographs and Gritt recalls: "I've had some blinding games here. We played in froot of 35,000 here

is another matter. Just over two years -ago Finterviewed the then-Brighton manager, Liam Brady, Brighton had nearly made the Second Division play-offs in May, attracting crowds of 15,000. Then they had beaten Premiership Leicester in both legs in the Coca-Cola Cup. The subsequent upbeat interview ran under the line Happy days are returning to

So, no rash predictions from me this time. Only that Gritt has his work cut out. When the photographer and I wished him luck as we parted we meant it. He will need every bit.

No 196 **Bristol football** by Mark Wenham

try we may lack the cultural sophistication of the inhabitants of The Eternal City", or "The Smoke" but we beat them pointless when it comes to pithy nicknames for a hometown Bristol - the Graveyard Of All Ambition" may not be the sort of slogan to launch a car sticker campaign, but it's fair comment in a city where dynamism s spending less than three hours in a sunny beer garden. Mrs Emerson would like it here, especially when she realises how near we are to the golden sands of Weston-super-Mare.

The attractions of other acthrities has been the main reasun our sports teams have underachieved to consistently over the tast decade, none more so than our two football clubs, City and Revers, Their main contribution to the nation's favourite game has been to supply the Premier League with a stream of centre-halves guaranteed to make Shearer giggle in his sleep. Rennie, Dryden, Yates, Curle, Tanner, Peacock, Newman, Scales.

Given the presence of both teams in the Second Division, with average crowds last season of 8,000 for City and 6,000 for Rovers, in a city with half a million potential matchgoers, you could be forgiven for thinking that there is no great residual well of affection for football in Bristol. In fact puls are invariably packed for Premiership games and England internationals, and most long-term residents (i.e. neonle other than students) have an affinity in either City or Riners that is heartfelt enough to have engendered a typically robust metropolitan rivalry. Supporters rib each other at work, make light-hearted jibes at the oppositions' expense in the local pub, and occasionally try to set fire to each other's stadiums.

This antipathy is geouine Rovers.

Down here in the West Couo- enough to ensure another sellout crowd for tomorrow's derby at Ashton Gate.

campaign to oust Archer and his

chief executive, Derek Bellotti. Be-

fore today's match with Hull - who

have similar problems of their own

- they will release 1,000 halloons in

tomary abuse of Bellotti at the

It is not the ideal eovironment to

work in. Costa eveo greeted Gritt's

appointment with the comment: "We didn't want anybody to take the

job. We wanted people to say they can't work with the current board."

with the board," Gritt said, "Some-

body had to come in and get hold of

the team otherwise the whole thing

say it is crumbling anyway but that doesn't interest me. I have come here

"I'm sure a lot of supporters will

"It is not a question of working

Hove Park before resuming their cus-

Historically, allegiance to each team depended oo which side of the River Avon you lived, but it has become increasingly clear to me that City and Rovers fans are completely different personality types.

City fans are basically delusional and share the happy conviction that good times are just around the corner. This delusion has its roots in a Sleeping Giant complex, which stems from having spent a shart spell in the old First Division, possessing an excellent stadium, a manager who played in Serie A, and a chairman who played keyboards for the Per Shop Boys. This feeling of superiority handily ignores the fact that for the last century there has rarely been more than one division between Bristol's two protagonists.

Rovers supporters, conversely, live according to the premise that if you expect nothing from life then you'll never be disappointed. This pessimism has been founded in recent years on a lack of money, and the lack of a decent ground, both conditions that seem set to last for the forseeable future.

Time for a prediction on the big game. Joe Jordan has created a brand new City team through some astute sign-ings and has fashioned them into a creative attacking side that are top scorers in their division and good bets for promotion. Rovers are the usual mix of

and pros on the downward slide. They play route one, are desperately low on coofideoce and rely on a sound defence to compensate for their lack of any proven goalscorer. The result therefore, should be a formality. One-nil to the

ex-noo-Leaguers, callow youths

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK World Cup Group Five Group Stx

Group Seven Beiglein & Medicalisets (7.0) (as ling Baudoute stadium) Wales v Tisley (as Carolif April Park) Gross Eight

TEAM SHEET Mississi ason: 1-0. Last five League matches: Liverpool WDSWL; Mid-refs: LDLLD Emerson makes a Middlesbrough comeback - his first Premiership appearance for seven weeks - in a team that has been hit by injury and virus problems. Liverpool are unchanged as Patrik Berger has recovered from the flu.

tomorrow...

Last season: No corresponding fedures. Last five Langue matche Sunderland LLDWL; Chelses WDDLD. Sunderland defender Scott (groin) has been ruled out. Melville will play his second game in 24 hours after playing for Wales in the World Cup A below-strength Chelsea have Leboeuf suspended and Vialli injured.

Now Wimbledon have influence. all they need is more friends

Wimbledon have Loodon to themselves this weekend, at least in terms of the Premiership, and can cut Arsenal's lead to a single point by beating Blackburn at Selhurst Park. Even allowing for the counterpull of Christmas shopping, if Joe Kinnear's team cannot draw a crowd today then Dublin may not be such a daft idea after all.

The Dons' average atten-dance of 15,500, while higher than that of their landlords, Crystal Palace, is inflated by the fact that they have already played Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham. The figure for Blackburn should be a true reflection of whether their football is winning the new friends it deserves.

Vinnie Jones will be absent,

leading the land of his distant forefathers, as Wimbledon strive to maintain the most unexpected championship chalenge since Ipswich triumphed in 1962. Blackburn, 17th but stirring, learned yesterday that Tony Parkes is prepared to continue as caretaker/manager un-til the summer, when Sven Goran Eriksson is free to join Liverpool, trailing Wimble-

don on goals scored, receive Middlesborough anxious to improve on a record of two points

16-month tenure to 17.

The Aberdeen defender Col-

in Woodthorpe faces severe

Phil Shaw examines the weekend's action in the Premiership and Nationwide League

home. They think they have problems: Boro have lost 22 and won just seven of the last 40 League games. The errant Emerson, who

looked world-class when Bryan Robson's men woo oo the other side of Stanley Park in September - their last victory - is set to return. Robson may also be tempted to man-mark Steve McManaman, as Sheffield Wednesday did so successfully. Roy Evans, dismayed that

stopping the wandering wonder meant stopping Liverpool, could recall Stan Collymore and/or Jamie Redknapp to redress imbalance between funcdonalism and flair. But with the Teessiders desperate for "a" result" to stifle rumblings of disquiet over Robson's management, no one should hold their breath for a repeat of August's As Eric Cantona has discov-

ered, hell hath no fury like a Leeds fan scorned. John Scales can expect similar vilification if Gerry Francis gives the England defender his Spurs debut at Elland Road. Scales' decision to reject

he was about to be sent off.

Hearts sign Hamilton

Scottish football action from the Scottish Football Association after snatching a yellow card from a referee as

Hearts have completed the signing of Scotland's Under-21 Woodthorpe bad already been booked by Martin Johnston striker Jim Hamilton from during a reserve match against Dundee for £200,000 and he goes into the squad to face Kil-Dunfermline. When the referee produced the yellow card for a marnock at Rugby Park today. Hamilton has signed a threesecond time, the player grabbed year deal and brings the number it and threw it at the official of players the Hearts manager, Woodthorpe has since been Jim Jefferies, has signed in his

fined by Aberdeen for his action and the SFA have confirmed that the referee's report has been re-

from the last nine available at Leeds was, he claimed, based on football criteria. That raised the intriguing possibility of an ex-Wimbledon player having qualms about the Yorkshire side's rugged approach of late, although the stronger likelihood is that Spurs plan to switch to a three-man defence. Scales excelled in such a system at Liverpool, as does Colin

Calderwood with Scotland. George Graham at last has a new face in his squad, though supporters may have been underwhelmed by the acquisition of Oldham's Gunnar Halle (what is it, incideotally, with Graham and Norwegians?).

Chelsea, having vindicated Graham's view that they would not fancy Leeds in the wind and rain, venture even further north tomorrow, to the sub-Arctic outpost that is Sunderland. The southern softies will, doubtless, be wearing gloves and thermal vests. As everyooe knows, they do not have cold weather in London or Italy. In the First Division, Bolton

no longer have the look of runaway champions, though a home match against fpswich should enable them to keep their distance from Sheffield United, whose resurgence faces a stern examination at Oxford.

The Second Division's outstanding fixture sends leaders Brentford to fifth-placed Burnley. Even Turf Moor's traditionally substantial support will be dwarfed, however, by the turn-out for tomorrow's Bristol derby, an occasion given added spice by Rovers' return to the

Meanwhile, Hull's visit to Brightoo in the Third Divisioo offers the bizarre prospect of both sets of fans remaining outside the ground to demonstrate against the respective

'He's got too much skill for Spurs,' said our former hero Chris Waddle of one top foreigner linked with the club. Ouch, that hurts

It was Henry Kissinger who said: "I can't have a crisis; my diary is full next week"; how I wish Alan Sugar could say the same. There is a crisis at Spurs and let oo ooe persuade you otherwise. Eleventh in the Premiership. a Jürgen Klinsmann lookalike up front and a £2.6m former Liverpool reserve oo the payroll simply paper over the cracks which suggest that

Spurs are being left on the shelf.
That classic Danny Blanchflower quote about the game heing "about glory, about doing things in style, with a flourish" has stuck to Spurs like a resolute man-marker. You see, it's always been their way. Just as foot-ball folklore decrees that Arsenal are dogged and dull (this season apart), Newcastle cavalier and Liverpool slick, so it's cast in stone that Spurs. are flamboyant and flash, if too often flawed. That they no longer are constitutes a crisis down the Lane.

The problems on the field are as clear. A defence over-reliant on Sol Campbell (it has already conceded 25 goals, at this stage last season the figure was 13), a lightweight midfield, a lackiustre attack, a manager seem-mgly devoid of inventive ideas and (according to Sugar) a lack of fight-ing spirit so painfully manifest in the 6-1 defeat at Bolton. Gerry Francis should heed the belief of the former Tottenham striker Garth Crooks that, "entertainment has always been an important feature of Spurs' game which the fans demand. They can never get away from that. If they did,

Tottenham football" which I find hard to believe of a man who grew up watching the 1961 Douhle-win-ning side: "That sort of talk disap-

Well, can you imagine how it distresses fans brought up on Blanch flower, Gilzean, Hoddle, Waddle, Ardiles and Gascoigne in see players with the skill of McManaman, Berger and Bergkamp playing for the op-position: to see long balls being pumped forward on the ground where "push and run" football was born; to see Armstrong running down the blind alleys where Chivers, Greaves, Allen and Lineker once hunted so profitably; and to see Arsenal playing Tottenham style football with Tottenham style players? "He's got too much skill for Spurs," said our former hero Chris Waddle of one top foreigner linked with the club. Ouch, that hurts.

However, the problems are not just on the field but also, as is customary with Tottenham Hotspur plc, in the boardroom where in five years there have been no trophies, no top six finish, no European place, not so

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

much as a whiff of the championship. Recently, the Tottenham Action Group, fearful that Sugar's reluctance to compete for players at the top end of the market is more short-sighted than prudent have urged Spurs fans to boycott White Hart Lane, chub merchandise, Am-

any associated companies in the hope that the oegative publicity will persuade Sugar either to rethink his

policy - or sell up and ship our.

If he did so, it would be at a vast profit. His 40 per cent stake, pur-chased for £8m, is now worth an es-timated £40m, with Spurs' value having quadrupled to around £100m. In his defence it must be said that he's restored business credibility to a club whose finances were in as much of a mess as Fergie's.

But the issue is not so much the money, hut whether Francis will spend what money he's given on the kind of players who will bring back the glory days. His expenditure aly amounts to £13m-phis on players (Fox, Sinton, Nielsen, Armstrong) whose impact has been as meffectual as a long ball in a force nine gale.

strad products and the products of tential, and Scales' influence remains

Waddle echoes the sentiments of many fans when he says Spurs need "a creative playmaker: a Hoddle, a Gascoigne, a player like Kinkladze", but acknowledges that Francis's task is not an enviable one. "To me," Waddle says, "the White Hart Lane crowd seemed spoilt. We could be 40 up, playing great and keeping possession and they'd be slow hand-clapping.

morning wanting more. And that was with Glenn and Ossie in the side." But if the fans are demanding. mey're also long-suffering. Spurs is a chub which seems to be in a state of perpetual crisis. In his 1990 preface to *The Glory Game* Hunter Davies admitted he'd grown to hate Spurs, had become infuriated by the bland programme, the accept on mer-chandising. "It seems that we were no longer a football club," Davies wrote,

"just another branch of the leisure in-dustry and what mattered most were the interests of the wealthiest supporters and most strident sponsors,"

Stuart Mutler, writing four years on in the final issue of The Spur, said: "Twe had enough... for the way we've been treated. Tottenham doesn't deserve players or fans anymore. Be wary. Be very wary indeed. For the Spurs are not what they seem."

Nor, in 1996's winter of discontent, a patch on what they used to be. oming out of the hat away to Man United in the FA Cup third round draw was simply par for the course in a troubled season. It's scant coosolation that the last time they played an FA Cup tie at Old Trafford, in 1980, a sublime Ardiles curier secured a 1-0 victory: because Ardiles is no longer around, and "Allan Nielsen's going to Wembley" doesn't have quite the same ring about it...

Test of mettle wawaiting Wales

Gary Speed believes Wales can avoid a repeat of last mooth's heating in the Netherlands when they tackle Turkey in

Cardiff today. Wales suffered a humiliating 7-1 defeat against the Dutch in Eindhoven hut Speed is confident they can re-start their World Cup challenge with victory against the Turks.

In the last campaign we lost 5.1 in Romania but we put it behind us and so nearly made it to the finals in the last game," the Everton midfielder said.

Bohby Gould, the Wales manager, has tried to help his players forget the trouncing in Eindhoveo by showing them a video compilation illustrating how well they have played since then with their club sides.

Wales, who have six points out of 12 at the half-way stage, will top Group Seven if they beat the rks and the Dutch draw in Belgium tonight, but they have played more games than their rivals and must win their last four matches to reach the target Gould set before the opening game agamst San Marino in June.

Gould will not make his team public until an hour before kiek-off, and he was also refuctant to reveal which of his players is having a fitness test this morning hut Mark Hughes says he is ready to face the Turks with his shin wound protected by

Gould is committed to making changes at the back from the Eindhoven game with Mark Bowen dropped and Alan Neilsoo injured. Ryan Giggs' return, along with that of Hughes and skipper Barry Horne, will give Wales a much stronger look than

they had in the Netherlands. Iain Dowie aims to take his Premiership frustration out on Albania when he leads Northern Ireland in their World Cup Group Nine qualifier against Al-bania in Belfast. The West Ham striker will be hoping to hring an end to the longest goal drought of his career.

He has only two Coca-Cola Cup goals to his oame this season, and has not scored in the Premiership since netting twice in the Hammers' 4-2 victory over Manchester City oo 23 March.

Ravanelli tells fans of his Boro bliss

Fabrizio Ravanelli yesterday reaffirmed his intention to stay with Middleshrough as Milan hecame the latest club to be linked with him

who is also reported to be interesting Manchester United. Liverpool, Aston Villa and Internazionale, declared his satisfaction with life oo Teesside and does not wish to leave.

"I want to tell all Boro fans that, despite moving to a oew club and a new country, I could not have hoped to have settled in hetter in the few months I have heen here," he said.
"There is no way I want to

Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, said: "I have oot had one approach from any club concerning Ravanelli. He is 100 per cent happy. The only

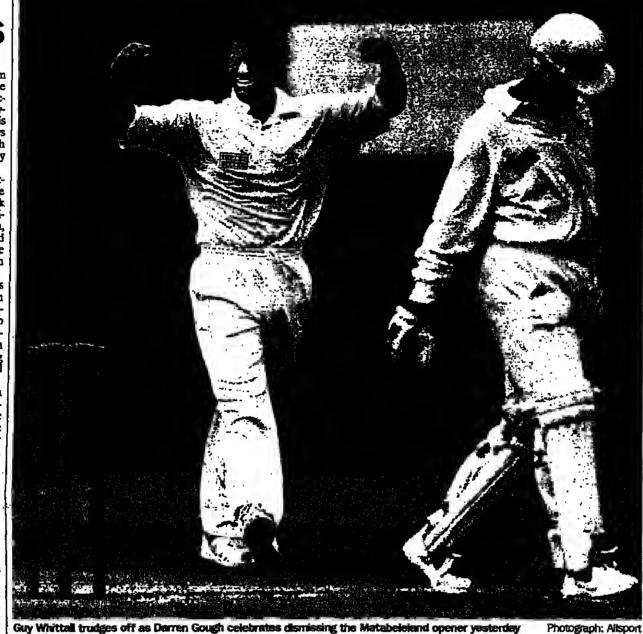
problem is misleading articles in the press that upset him." Hi-tech sheoanigans in Spain where an unidentified fan armed with a laser tried to dis-The 16-goal, £7m striker, tract the Seville keeper, Monchi Rodrgiuez, during Monday's

3-0 league defeat at Hercules. Television pictures showed a small red light on the keeper's face at corners and free-kicks. Lasers can cause permanent eye damage and even hlindness. "There was some kind of

laser, but it didn't affect me,"

Monchi said. England are to play Brazil on 10 June in Lens as part of the four-team 1998 World Cup dress rehearsal which also features France and Italy.

Dates: 3 June France v Brazi, Lyon; 4 June haly v England, Narines; 7 June France v England, Montpeller; 8 June haly v Brazi, Lyon; 10 June England v Brazi, Lyon; 11 June France v Italy, Parts Part Care v Italy, Parts Part Care to be announced Inter).



Ankle operation for Hollioake on return

MYLES HODGSON

reports from Brisbane England A 230 & 106-4 Queensland 298 Match drawn

Adam Hollicake joined the list of England A's injured tourists as the party completed their successful Australian trip with an expected draw here yesterday.

for 5, were dismissed for 298 with man as England shrugged off Craig White taking a career-best 6 for 66, and claiming his 150th first-class wicket in the process.

Hollioake will undergo an operation on his left ankie when he returns, joining Dean Headley (bip) and Mark Eal-ham (broken finger) in facing an anxious winter.

Hollioake's injury did not stop him from playing a major part in the tourists' success, both Queensland, resuming on 195 as a captain, bowler and bats-

Pall (conf): 8-232 7-275 8-277 9-293. Bowling: Headley 9-1-30-0; Chapple 29-7-59-1; Eallem 5-2-15-1; East 36-4-32-0; White 29-2-5-66-6; Holicake 12-7-29-1; Gallan 14-9-33-0; Yaughan 2-0-9-0; McGrath 4-0-8-1; Banter 6-9-8-0 their opening defeat against New South Wales 2nd XI to finish the trip with a nine-match unbeaten run.

IMIDCALCH TUIL
Final day of four, Queensland won tobs
ENGLAND A - Flost brainings 230 (M A Butchar 72; 3 N Crossey 6-70).
QUEENSLAND - Frest brainings
(Overright: 195 for 5)
M P Mott c Hegg b White
T3
TW A Secontrib c Hegg b White
23
S A Preschwidge not out
22
S A Preschwidge not out
22
S A Preschwidge not out
23
S A Wilder b White
A
S A Muller b White
3 A Muller b White
3 Total (120.2 overs)
258

ENGLAND A - Second femings
M A Butcher hit westet b Prestwidge
M P Yaughen c Monor b Myller
M P Yaughen c Monor b Myller
J E R Gallan not out
A J Hollone's Prestwidge
C White not out

England's

handicap

fielding

Derek Pringle, in Bulawayo, previews tomorrow's first one-day international

of what the Zimbabwean cricket authorities think of Michael Atherton's team, or simply the only available 20-scater in Matabeleland, tomorrow's one-day international promises to be anything but an easy ride for the

Since their elevation to Test status in 1992, Zimbabwe have met England three times in oneday cricket, beating them twice in low-scoring matches in Austaken very seriously in these parts as evidenced by the prime spot given to tomorrow's pitch. By ready for the lesser business - as far as the paying public are con-cerned - of Wednesday's Test.

Unlike the longer game, one-day cricket is notoriously difficult to call, which may go some way to explaining its popularity. England's recent limited-overs form, series victories against India and Pakistan in the summer, suggests that perhaps they ought to start as favourites, although only seven of the players that won those series are here.

The England camp feel their preparations are now on course and that key players have all had good enough work-outs to he close to merging both peak fitness and form. Only Ronnie Irani's back twinge may prevent them from playing their first-choice XI, which would see Alec Stewart return to open the innings with Nick Knight, seek-ing his third successive limitedovers century, while Athertoo

Pinch-hitting is still anathema

Ever since England arrived here, to England's game plan. In any they have been ferried around case the only suitable candidate in a bus with "Girl's College" em-hiazoned on the side. Whether if fit to fill the fifth bowling spot, or not it is an accurate reflection will probably hat at seven. This suggests England will try and accelerate their scoring rate through a stroke-playing - as op-posed to hig-hitting - middle order of Thorpe, Hussain and Crawley, the last two having made seveo appearances in limited-overs internationals. In all, only four members of the party have played this type of match for England more than

five times. Bowling tactics, something of tralia. It is a form of the game a lottery when early hitting is employed by the opposition, will revolve around Darren Gough and Alan Mullally creating an contrast the Test pitch is oo the stranglehold in the opening 15 edge of the Queen's Park square, overs as they did against Matabeleland a week ago. That task may become more challenging if regular contact is made by the

whiring bat of Andrew Wallet, the big-litting opener.

The majority of the Zim-babwe batsmen favour the front fnot, a preference difficult to counter in one-day cricket, with its outlawing of short-pitched bowling. England must not provide room to cut, a favourite shot here, and Andy Caddick and Rohert Croft in particular, must guard against it.

Where Zimbabwe do overshadow the tourists is in the standard of their out-fielding, the brilliance of which is thought to give them a 15-run start. England may have several brilliant fielders but 15 runs is a lot to make up. and England will have to be at their best in all departments to make sure it is not a handicap that costs them the game. POSSIBLE ENGLAND 12: "M A Atherton, N V Knight, 1A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Tho-pe, J P Czewicy, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R Cad-dick, A D Mulially, C E W Silverwood.

IAAF tie huge prizes to drug campaign

The world's leading athletes will have to carry an identity card next year to prove they have undertaken out-of-competition testing and are eligible to claim a share of increased championship cash prizes totalling

Without the "clite" card, the top 20 athletes in each discipline are not eligible for money on offer for the first time at the World Championships in Athens and all six other World Series events organised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. These cover indoor, cross-country, race walking, half-marathoo and road relay championships.

This will be the beginning of new era for athletics," the IAAF'S president, Primo Nebiolo, said in Monte Carlo yestenday. "It is another means of combating doping, which we feel will be very effective. We are signing 'ves' to prizes, but 'no' to obeating to athletics."

The money will virtually distrantee the presence of all the world's best in each event. which has not always been the

Inford Christie is reported be prepared to put his recompetition on hold and take on his uld rival Frankic Fredencks at an indoor meeting in France next February.

Symonds still not a true **Australian**

Andrew Symonds' failure to make the starting XI for Australia A yesterday gives Gloucestershire fresh hope that he can play for them again.

Symonds, born in Birmingham but brought up in Australia, finally committed himself to playing for an Australia representative side this week. That decision initially backfired when he was made 12th man for the Australian second-string side who beat the West Indies by six wickets in a one-day match in

Melbourne. Last winter the 21-year-old batsman turned down a place on England's A tour, preferring to play state cricket in Australia and if he had played yesterday it would have meant he no longer counted as an English player.

The Test and County Cricket Board said yesterday that because Symonds was only 12th man in the A side's six-wicket win, his dual-nationality status still applies and he could yet play for the county again.

Tony Brown, the TCCB's administratioo manager, said: The regulations state that a person must have played for whatever country to make him incligible. But he didn't play, he was only 12th man." ONE-DAY MATCH (Melbourne): Was Indian 27 by 9 IS Chanderpou 72; 50 overs): Australe A 218 for 4 II J Harvey 27co. D S Lehmann Gano; 44.4 overs). Australia A vice of the reference of the control of the Basketball

Charles Berkley scored 11 of his 26 points in the first 6:24 of the game as the Houston Rockets raced to a 15-point lead and breezed to their ninth straight home win, 115-96, over the Detroit Pistons on Thursday. Clyde Drexier scored 27 points, Hakeen Olajuwon added 21 and rookie Matt Maloney countributed 10 for Houston, which improved the league's best record to 19-2. Barkley grabbed eight rebounds and Drexier hapded out eight sessists for the Rockets, who have won four in a row and 12 of their lest 14 games.

Mills diew York 90 Galden State 75: Houston 115 Deants 96: Nationales 100 Seettle 97; Promite 96 Urah 87: Portland 59 Vancouver 78; Acaptes 97 Sen Antonio 94; Sacamerro 93 Delais 86:

Athletics

Britzin's hopes have soared and then slipped for the European Cross-Country Championships in Charlerol, Belgium, tomorrow. Jon Brown gave them a tonle by beating Kenye's world champion. Paul Tergat, in Spenin last weekend. But another key men, Kelth Cullen, has been suffering from 'flu and his team-mate, Spencer Barden, is facing two theft charges. Barden, who has been belied to appear in court at Maidstone next Friday, was seen as the fourth runner Britain needed to improve on last year's team bronze. Andrew Peetson, who won the individual bronze, Cullen (fourth) and Brown (sketh) could have celebrated gold had they found another high finisher in their race at Airwick. The former double national champion. Andrew Whitcombe, is back in the women's team after changing her mind Athletics

peratury coach be winetition, who is joining Lancashire. Paidstan, sent to an embarrassing 13 runs defeat by the Australian Cricket Academy in their tour-opening firrited overs match yesterday, will consider ceiling for replacements after a rash of illness and mijury, Captain Wasim Atram and wicketkeeper Moin Khan both missed the match through illness as did the experienced batsman Salim Malik, who withdraw at the lest moment with an ankle injury and Wasim's pece bowling partner, Waqar Younis, was rested ahead of Sunday's first World Series match against Australia. Coach Mushtap Mohemmad said the players may be suffering from the effects of a hectic schedule which has included trurs to Singapore, England, Canada, Kenya and Sherjah since the World Cup in Merch. Angrea with control is death if the women's team after changing her mind about retiring, but the absence of Britain's No.1. Paula Readelfie, who has had a knee injury and will not run until the Durham International at the and

STEPHOT TO IMPOVE ON EST SECSULIS PO-sition of seventh.

EUROPEAN CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPI-ORSHUTS (Charleso), Belgium) Merc S Bar-des (GEC), J Brown (Steffield). B Barrows (Brigheld). R Cullen (Cheinstor). A Pearson (Longwood), C Stephenson (Cardil).

(Longwood), C Stephenson (Cardil).

(Pearson), S Ride (Warregor), A Whitzombe (Perisido), H Yelling (Hounstow).

of the month, is a blow as the squad attempt to improve on last season's po-

Cricinet
Sri Lights have chosen the former Australian Test spinner Bruce Yerdley as their new coach and not the former England betsman Allan Lamb. Yerdley, who

SPORTING DIGEST

played 33 tests for Australia, replaces departing coach Dav Whatmore, who is joining Lancashire.

March.

March.
Tour March (Adeleide, one-day): Australian Chicket Academy 248 for 5 (50 ones; M Dighton 52); Pakisten 235 (48.3 ones; Zhroor Ean 61, Seed Arwar 56), Australian Chicket Academy won by 13 russ.

51)PERSPORT SERIES: Durban (second day of four): Botton 133 and 65 for 2; Netal 196 D. Bertienstein 50, N Williams 6-57, D Milms A-64), Kibserley (first day of four): Fire State 294 for 7 (5 Disperser 50, L Wilumson 75, C Czwer (50ry Virtualian) West. Cap from first day of fear): Botton 171; Western Promise 57 for 6 M Nimit 4-50, Johannachung (first day of four): Timmseel 302 for 8 (D Leing 128, A Hell 60) v Estaum Provence.

Mexico, Peru and Denmark will take on the United States in US Cup '97 from January 17-22, with the round-robin tournamerd being staged in Pasadena

tournament being staged in Pasaderia and San Diego.

19ANSERS John Scales (sefender) Liverpool to Tournament Analey Nead Indicated Liverpool to Tournament Analey Nead Indicated Liverpool to Hudersteld; Gunsen Heller (delender) Dehy In Cambridge Dat; Guny Matthews Cydetenk in Storress; Peul Publishero Dundak in Bas Storres; Peul Publishero Dundak in Bas Storres; Peul Publishero Dundak in Bas Sching Chelmonamento Neadle Wokes to Stroebory; Adrian Roudak (michielder) Vorj, in Bury, LOAN TRANSFERS; Mark Sright (Orward) Shell Wed Mithaki; David Brightwell (michielder) Peul Brown (forward) Preston to Stroebory; Lesie Denove (forward) Brightwell (Brightwell (Brightwell Brightwell) Preston to Stroebory; Lesie Denove (forward) Brightwell (Brightwell (Brightwell)) Preston to Stroebory; Lesie Denove (forward) Brightwell (Brightwell) Preston to Stroebory; Lesie Denove (forward) Brightwell (Brightwell to Stroebory); Preston to Stroebory (Forward) Preston to Stroebory (Forward) Preston to Stroebory (Forward) Preston to Stroebory (Forward) (Forw

After nine years at Velderrama, the Volvo Masters will stay in Spain next see-son at the Jack Nickaus-designed Montecastillo course in Jerez. The move

had to be made as Valderrama is stag-ing the Ryder Cup in September. Mark McNuity will defend the Masters title it is the final event of the European tour season on 30 October-2 November. coolula CLASSIC (booker, Asia) Landing sec-end-marks of 57: 137 of Charles 71 65: Sapplety 69 69, 138 P Lorent 67 71, 139 M Roberts 71 65: W 695 67 73; S Leaney 72 67; M Long R/D, 72 57; A Parrier 71, 68, 140 Edual Rol 71 69; U Deez 72 68, 143 P Cros-man 67 74, 142 8 King 69 73; S Robinson 70 72; C Jones 70 72; J Cooper 70 72. Sandra Volker, the Olympic silver medal-list, bounced back from a surprise de-feat in the 50 metres butterfly to break

Hockey
CHAPONS TROPHY (Madrae) Seventis day:
Australia 1 Notherlands 1; Germany & Spain 3;
India Polisian. Final Puol George 1 Notherlands
11,05; 7 Polisian IV. 3 Germany 8: 4 India 7pts;
5 Australia 2; 6 Spain 2.

Rugby Union

Naisa Drotske will captain South Africa A when they meet Emerging Wales at Swensea today. The Springbook's sec-ond string will be defending a seven-menth winning run, including a 35-20 victory over England A at Gloucester in midweek.

Michael Gorgan A. (Tour metals v Emerging Webs. Samman, bulay, 2,30%; D dr. Tolk (Northern Termeel); M. Headridis (Boland). J. Josubert (Nota), E. Laibe (Granatand West), M. Bosson (Notarri Province); O le Read (Notarri Province); P Sent (Granatand West), R Emerger (Pres Stone). (Gnqueland West), R Ersemes (Pres Step), 1921-1939 SQUAD (Training seesion, Algarve, Per 28 Dec 2 Jack Backer S Masser (Schrinott), C O'Shee (Landon Hetv.), D Crotty (Germowert), J Topping (Bellymens), N Woods (Landon), M McCall (Dungarmon), J Bell (Nothernston), M McCall (Dungarmon), J Bell (Nothernston), S Wester (Dorscornston), K McCall (Dungarmon), J Bell (Nothernston), S Wester (Dorscornston), B Carey (Blackerott College), P Burke (Drotton), E Howes (Landon Heth), N Hogas (Tertraine College), & Bitchor (Germowen), B O'Means (Cork Constitution).

Forwarder N Popplemed (Newcaste), H Harfey

DSIGN).
Forwarder N Popplewell Newcastel, H Harfey-Buceleyi, P Flavis (Biocistoch College), P Wallace (Sasters), A McKern (Langdowne), G Halpin (Landon Irish), K Wood (Harlespins), A Clarke (Northamptor), M McCarmoth (Landon Landon), P Flatcher (Landon Irish), Devidency (Landon Irish), P Johns (Socotan), M Galwey (Strangon), A Februs (Socotan), M Galwey (Strangon), A Februs (Socotan), M Galwey (Strangon), A Februs (Strangon), B Crosta (Carryoven), D Corkery (Bristol), E Millior (Leboster), D Milliorde), (Milliorde)

Skiling Heavy snow yesterday forced World Cup organisers to call off a women's glant seiom race and a men's downhill prac-tice in Val d'Isare, France. Organisers were hoping that conditions would im-prove before today's scheduled race.

feet in the 50 metres butterfly to break the European short-course record for the 100m freestyle yesterday in Rostook, Germany. She finished in 53.04sec, 1.42 ahead of the second-placed Briton, Susan Rolph, beating the 53.33 European record set by her German rives!, Franzisia van Almsick, in Peking, January 1993 and was just 0.03sec our side the world mark of China's Le Jingi. There was further British success when Sarah Collings came third in the 800m freestyle final and qualified for today's 400m freestyle, ian Wilson came first

in his 1500m qualifying heat with a time of 14:58.82. EUROPEAN SHDRT-COURSE CHAMPI-CHSH8'S FBALLS (Rectbook, Germany) Merr 50n breaststoict; P testeson (Swe) 27.76sec; 2 J Kruppa (Ger) 27.77; 3 O Malek (Decen) 27.84.50m backstroke; 1 M Siemblota (Pol) 25.03; 2 T Kario (Coa) 25.14; 3 S Theolos (Ger) 25.15; 100m freestyle; 1 L Control (Ger) 48.90; 2 N Butset (Rom) 49.49; 3 N Nan (Rom) 49.56. 400m freestyle; 1 E Bremblota (R) 3mm 45.52sec; 2 S Poli (Ger) 3:48.10; 3 D Narad (Sampler (Ger) 3:48.29; 3 November (Ger) 1:57.04; 2 T Rupprath (Ger) 1:57.30; 3 D Abrard (Fa) and A Andermatt (Swri) 1:59.23; 100m individual modifier: 1 M Whota (Ho) 54.82; 2 J Kruppa (Ger) 54.82; 3 C Keller (Ger) 85.45; 8 S Handley (GB) 57.11.

Woman: 50m butterfly: 1 J Sjoberg (Swe) 27.15secs (European record); 2 S Volter (Gor) 27.25; 3 M Perssinen (Fin) 27.99. 100m breaststroke: 1 T Miller INor) 1:07.91; 2 V Hechika (Jul) 1:08.18; 3 A Peczak (Pol) 1:08.33, 100m freestyle: 1 S Volker (Ger) 53.04 (European record); 2 S Rogla (Gel) 54.46; 3 M Moravcova (Stovak) 54.95. 200m backstroke: 1 K Paoniova (Cacch) 2:08.14; 2 A Buckstanutis (Ger) 2:09.54; 3 A Negar (Sloven) 2:12.20; 5 J Deakins (GB) 2:13.42, 400m individual seedley: 1,5 Hertst (Ger) 4:39.26; 2 Coade Cacters (Pon) 4:41.76; 3 P Chrastova (CRep) 4:42.07. 800m freestyle: 1 C Geurs (Nesh) 2:34.66; 2 F Rigamont (Swi) 3:39.20; 3 S Collings (GB) 2:42.42; 4550m freestyle relay: 1 Germany 1:41.55; 2 Sweden 1:42.18; 3 Switzerland 1:44.90. Women: 50m butterfly: 1 J Sjoberg (Swe 27.15secs (European record): 2 S Volke

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Taking nothing for granted Andy Gomarsall, England's new scrum-half, talks to Chris Hewett, page 21

Gough's career best confirms revival

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Bulawayo England 334 & 230 for 5dec Matabeleland 188 & 261 England win by 115 runs

The preamble is over, and Englaod have Darren Gough to thank for replacing last week's long faces with winning smiles, as Matabeleland were beaten here with 45 minutes to spare. After claiming a career-best 11

now looks ever closer to being the strike bowler he was in Australia two years ago, before a broken foot forced a change in action and a loss of form.

It has been a patient haul for him to reassert himself and pull back on the sweater sporting his beloved three lions. Normally as effervescent as liver salts in a bottle of cola, his confidence had waned and he was deliberately overlooked for Test duty last summer: the selectors, telling him to go away and take regu-lar wickets for Yorkshire. He obliged by taking 67 of them,

gradually overcoming his in-jury worries as he did so.

With all that now accomplished, he has begun to bowl with consistent pace again. On a slow and unyielding surface he rapped gioves and helmets, as well as stumps and toes, with a combination of bouncers and yorkers that brought five second-innings wickets to add to the six he took in the first.

You can always tell when I'm bowling well," Gough said. "I swing the ball out with the new one. It was a good pitch and later on I was trying to get them

back, back, back, then fire one up there. The classic one was the Manesh Ranchod dismissal [low to an in-dipping yorker for his second duck of the match]. I was very pleased with that."

It was not the only yorker ploy that worked on the day, and after having Guy Whinall well caught by Andy Caddick at third man, deliberately positioned for the batsman's uppercut shot over the slips, both Mark Abrams and Andy Whittall succumbed to the ball England's assistant coach likes to call "The old Harry Porker."

However, amongst all the wreckage, and presumably to some consternation to England, Mark Dekker and Heath Streak who normally bars at No 9 for Zimbabwe, managed to put on 155 for the third wicket before Streak was bowled off

an inside edge by Caddick. Before that hreakthrough. England's attack (missing only the resting Alan Mullally) had looked insipid and it needed a few crafty spells of spin bowl-ing from Robert Croft, who took 4 for 65, to help expose the fault lines in the home side's batting.

More worrying than the rela-tive strengths of the opposition, however, was that just 14 balls were managed by Rounie Irani, who is now in some doubt over tomorrow's one-day international. He hurt his back while bowling and will have a fitness

test today to see if he can play.

It was Croft, now getting. some turn from around the wicket, who eventually removed the left-handed Dekker for 104. A hard-fought hundred that involved three mighty sixes and a ridiculous celebration by a man wearing briefs and bearing

a bottle of beet. His demise, lbw playing tamely back to Croft, allowed England in for a swift kill.

Not everyone palled their weight with the bell and Caddick who bowled well in the first innings, seemed to lacked zip yes-terday. He may still be catching up with his team mates after catching flu from his captain when the side arrived 18 days ago:

On the other hand, he has something of a reputation for being insecure and dishking hard work. The latter was alluded to by the England coach, David Lloyd, when he said: "We need

dick. More pace. It's up to us to get more out of him and for him to get more out of himself."

Wyllie puts the heat on **England** again

CHRIS HEWETT Rugby Union correspondent

A single annual dose of New Zealand medicine is more than enough to satisfy even the most masochistic rugby player but to-day, just a fortnight after suf-fering their biggest home defeat in 12 years at the hands of Sean Fitzpatrick's multi-talented band of Barbarians, England must attempt to cast yet another All Black devil from the high altar of Twickeoham.

Talk about sending coals to Newcastle. Few Argentinian sides of recent years have needed a refresher course in aggression - the last time the Pumas played in England, six years ago, they left the distinct impression that they had been coached by Angelo Dundee - but Jose Luis Imhoff's current tourists clearly believe they are in danger of going soft. Why else would Alex "Grizz" Wyllie, the roughest, toughest son of a gun ever to play for New Zealand, have been installed as technical director?

Wyllie, considered by the Pumas to be the best coach in the business, has made himself well known to British rugby folk down the years. He made one or two subtle pugilistic points to the



Bench press: England prepare at the Bank of England Ground in Roehampton yesterday for a confrontation with the raw muscle of the Argentinian tourists

Lions in the Battle of Canterbury by at the moment is turning over. Pumas on more than one occa-

way back in 1971, and as recently as three summers ago he was in charge of an Eastern Province side who gave violence a bad name in an X-rated shocker against England in Port Elizabeth. From stiff upper lip to fat lip in one easy lesson.

The Pumas have lost an entire world-class front row since giving England a roasting op froot in Durban 18 months ago, but Wyllie believes the

tourists' remodelled pack possess ample raw muscle to make life seriously uncomfortable for Jason Leonard, the new Erbertard captain, and his fellow forwards this afternoon.

I think they stant up to the best packs around in terms of bull-winning," said Grizz as the Argentinians prepared for their final training ruo yesterday. The important thing is that they retain what they win. One of the big mistakes in Puma rug-

Root for strike over cut

Countries, in effect,

Fail-safe (5)

with servile agents (9)

Film locations around

Italy for certain stars?

12 Poor rider, that, com-

ing a cropper (5-4) A gathering enjoying many a blow-out?

Survey depicting Party

too much possession, which is a question of attitude as much salivibing I want to see that it maintain the hardness of they are capable right to the state of the state of the state of the state of they have ability but lose control have ability but lose concentration very easily."

Leonard, who takes over the tiller from the injured Phil de Glanville, is the only home forward to have confrooted the

sion: In fact, he has faced them four times and that rich experience leads him to believe that the England front five, so impressive in both of this season's previous outings, will face the stiffest of examinations early on.

Provided they look after

themselves at the sharp end -and in Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw, England possess line-out jumpers of sufficient quality to ocutralise the hardened Bueoos Aires pairing of Pedro Sporteder and German Llanes - Leonard's men should be guaranteed a 20-point winning margin. But despite the fact that their outside half, Mike Catt, declared himself fully reyesterday, there remains a degree of uncertainty about a back division that has fallen foul

of miury and illness this week. For the second time in three games, England unveil a new face at full-back. Nick Beal has the pace and clusive style to fill the strike runner's role so im-.

game plan, but he is no Tim Stimpson in terms of defence. He will need every ounce of support he can get from his wings, Jon Sleightholme and Tony Underwood, if he is to steer clear of Puma man traps:

As for Underwood, today's match completes a difficult week of contrasting emotions. Called into the squad last week-end when Adedayo Adebayo was concussed he suffered the indignity of being overdooked in favour of Jeremy Guscott, a centre by instinct and breeding Only when De Glanville cried off on Thursday was he flown back down from Newcastle and installed in the side.

It will be his first England apish collision with Jonah Lomu in Cape Town in last year's World Cup semi-final and, understandably, he badly wants to draw a line under the entire issue. "I can't stop people talk- 'ular ghost at the time - the day ing about the Lomu thing; it is after the match, in fact - and the undeniable that my last outing simportant thing now is to give for England was that one against New Zealand and as to remember me.

ENGLAND V ARGENTINA

with every other sport, you are only as good as your last game," he said vesterday. "But I feel as though I expressed that particpeople something else by which

"I felt it was a bit of a slap in the face when they decided to play Jerry on the wing, but when all is said and done, he's a great player and is obviously worth place in the side. But things turned out in my favour over the last couple of days and it's up to

Photograph: David A and

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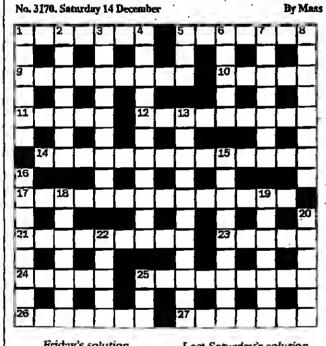
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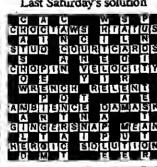
one in the division.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



(6,2,6)

in revival (14) City rectifying Lorca ban around Spain (9) Watch level sinking in motorway (5) Climber needs pin back on face of alp (5)

26 First of players during broadcast drove dangerously (7)
A house with a promising entry? (7)

light (5)

One cut up by a club, wanting endless drink?

DOWN

Not quite right about 1 GP's prescription, mostly Outrote's inneless Soar ish? (7) Transmits easily (5.4)

Drink for a day? Drawer has busy activity (11) Extend short step (3) Sally's collecting phos-phorous precipitate (5) Game Party figure rising on Left (7)

Drill on right lines, or out. of step? (8) 13 Ulcerous fine spot signifying plague (11)
15 Gather hishop in course of circuit's getting acidity

16 In extremes of droughts, river trickles (8)
Rout of Light Brigade?
Horse ambushed in charge? (7) Spell including mani injured one of the Spurs?

(9)

Arrive, taking level approach (7)

Quite like a bagatelle,

about Ravel's first (6) Animal seen in Eastern

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' unmes will be published next Saturday. Seal solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4013. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and pestcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: J Skinner, Lincoln: E Williams, Ambuch Fort, T & M Gibson, Hatfield; Richard Booth, Rotherham; E Precious, Holmbridge.

Evans decides to sue Merle

Ricky Evans, the former Wales and Lianelli prop, has decided to sue the French lock-forward Olivier Merle after sustaining severe injuries following e butting incident in a Five Nations' Championship match almost two years ago.

Evans, who has served a writ in the French High Court, is claiming damages for the injuries he received, loss of earn-

ings and medical expenses. The 36-year-old suffered a double fracture of his leg, ligament damage in his left ankle and a fracture of his nose during the Parc des Princes match in January 1995.

Evans, whose ankle was treated with the insertion of a screw and plate, returned to the game four and a half months later, missing three internationals.

Although he played in the World Cup against New Zealand, the bard South African grounds aggravated the metalwork in his ankle. He required further surgery forcing him to miss the first half of last season and he has been unable to reclaim his international place.

Evans, a firefighter, who now plays for Cardigan, said: "I kept quiet in 1995. However, I now realise that but for Mr Merle I would have been the

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number one loose-head prop for Wales in the World Cup.

"After that, when the players in the Welsh team became professional, I lost out. They earned more in the next five games than I received in all my 19 internationals." Merle was dropped from the

French side for the two matches after the incident but remains a member of their current team. Evans' solicitor, Mark Harvey, said: "French law would say that Mr Evans consented to a reasonable risk of a rugby injury when he played. He did not con-sect to being butted when he was looking the other way."

me to make the most of it." In Monday's 20-page sports sections



Water Preser Tables Stafford in the National Interview

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Little Miss Firecracker

John Walsh meets **Imelda Staunton**



t's Broadway in the Depression. The streets are full of unemployed drifters and sad-eyed losers, hoping to strike it rich gambling on the gee-gees or the roll of dice. Thrills are hard to come by in this aleatoric wasteland, but one place you can guarantee them is the Hot Box nightchub. A white piano, a quintet of foxy babes in a bewildering variety of shapes who parade about in spangly tulle and acres of leg -and then, from behind the tacky red Hot Box curtains, there bursts an extraordinary sight: a minia-ture, 5ft Meissen shepherdess, but with added fishnet tights and huge pumpkinny smile. She sings Frank Loesser's farmyard-love classic "A Bushel and a Peck" with a catch in her voice, a weird eldritch squeak, and she sways across the stage wielding her pastoral crook like a guitar or a scythe, so that the tall horse-limbed dancing girls have to duck out of its way. She is a tiny force of nature. She is irresistibly gorgeous. At the song's climax, with the Hot Box babes going chook-chook around the piano, the shepherdess throws handfuls of corn to the first few rows of the audience, who grab it ecstatically. Gentlemen in expensive suits try to establish eye contact with the singer who is so cheekily, so Diamond-

Lil-ishly, making them eat out of her hand...

But this is not Broadway, nor the Depression, nor a nightclub, nor a porcelain figurine. This is the National Theatre's new production of Guys and Dolls, which Richard Eyre first staged in 1982, to the collective rapture of London theatregoers. In those days, Imelda Staunton played the smallest and dumpiest of the Hot Box girls, dancing behind thin McKenzie, who sang Miss Adelaide, the sheplerdess role. Two years later, Mckenzie left and Staunton, with a certain apprehensiveness, took over. Now, 12 years later, she's back in the part. And watching Guys and Dolls again, one is amazed how much Staunton has not just made the part her own, eclipsing all memory of McKenzie's rather drooping and pathetic Adelaide, but how she has made it seem a far greater role. In La Staunton's hands, "the well-known fiancée" becomes a complex figure - good-hearted but calculating, chronically disappointed but endlessly optimistic, dim but not gullible, dying to marry ber feckless boyfriend. Nathan Detroit, impresario of the permanently floating crap game, but longing to knock bim into shape, slushily romantic but one of the girls, a wisecracker, a shrew, a sexpot... Why you'd think you were watching some bittersweet American version of Everywoman there on stage.

The key word is "bittersweet", of course, Imelda Staunton has been playing bittersweet for years, on stage, on television, in movies. Her presence in sitcoms like Is It Legal? or comedy dramas like Up the Garden Path or literary-canon movies like Sense and Sensibility or comedy-mysteries like Joan Smith's televised novels always complicate their texture because of the air of frustration, of unfulfilment or bravely-borne melancholy, that wafts around her like parma violets. Audiences seem to like the way her watermelon smile, her smart-cookie manner conceals a broken heart. It also means she can play anything, from Shakespeare to Chekhov to Sondheim to a telly slouth, without undue strain.

But who is she really? Is her disposition sweet or hitter? The first shock, when you meet her, for lunch at the National's ritzy Mezzanine restaurant. is how alarmingly Celtic sbe looks. Out of makeup, out of costume and character, she is a mass of red curls, angry blue eyes and rough windblown complexion. She resembles a Galway tinker, only without the shawl and the cardboard box. Her hard little eyes could be those of an IRA moll. And though you soon warm to her straight, confiding manner ("What exactly is osso buco? Is it? Yergh") one remains a little wary of her. Prolonged exposure to Mayo redheads would suggest that she could have a fifthy temper. Does she? "No. I don't have a temper," she says pleasantly. "Although of course that's not healthy. I can't even say 'Nn, I'm not doing that...' without getting upset. I can't argue. I can be very clear about what I want, but I won't shout about it. I'm better at getting ahead of things. I'm not good at conflict, but I'm good at sensing it in the distance and defusing it."



'Chronically disappointed but endlessly optimistic': Imelda Staunton rehearsing the part she made her own, Adelaide, in 'Guys and Dolls'

Photo: John Haynes

I thought of Adelaide's on-off romance with Nathan, their screaming matches, their ill-matched temperaments, her determination, his constant retreat. Could she empathise? "I think Henry [Goodman, who plays Nathan] and I have a very good relationship. You feel he really loves her. He gets distracted a lot but, when he's with her, he really loves her. You feel it's not just a battle on her own, that I've really got to get this guy." Staunton habitually mixes up characters and actors like this, when talking about the part. It's as if her identification with Adelaide slides in and out of character all the time. So does her sense of Adelaide as a girlfriend, n singer, a fictional character and a good part to play. As we teased out the moral strands of the play, she said, "What I think is, the four main characters all grow up a bit in this story. Sarah [the Salvation Army virgin who thinks, this is how my life is going to be, gets shown it can be other things as well, Adelaide decides she'll marry Nathan no matter what he is. Nathan gets a job on a news stand, Sky Masterson discovers it's all right to do something virtuous - they all make good journeys, and that's always interesting. And of course, if you get to sing in a nightclub at the same time, that's n nice perk costumewise..."

Staunton gives a tremendous on-stage impression of a Tin Pan Alley trouper. She practically bursts with emotion during "Adelaide's Lament", she hams up the Monroe-esque "Take Back Your Mink" with vigour, she rants like a termagant in "Sue Me", turning the last "When I think of the times..." into a single exasperated, wordless screech. It comes as a slight shock to discover that she doesn't actually care for the form at all.

"Audiences like Guys and Dolls because it's a very good play. The songs are good too, yeah, but you could perform it without the songs and still have a very good play. I just don't like a lot of musicals. I think a lot of them are crap. They're weak. Often you get a crap script and a couple of good songs. and you're supposed to think you've had a good night out. It's just not good enough." Gosh. Was there one she really really hated? "Oh, there was Mack and Mabel, which I did at Nottingham - great songs, terrible book. It's so frustrating. And I always want the songs to further the action. Not many of them do. The show stops, it's a song, the show starts again. It's so ... " She speared a mouthful of monkfish, having turned down the Boyonne ham that was supposed to accompany it; she's a meat vegetarian, but not a fish vegetarian. "And when I was asked to do Into the Woods, they sent me a tape to listen to,

and the music went [she adopts a prancing, children's-TV delivery] Into the woods alone alone, into the woods...' and I just went [she mimes switching offn tape] Off! I don't think so." But she was in Into the Woods... "Oh, Richard Jones persuaded me to do it and I enjoyed it very much. But I'm not a great fan of Sondheim, and he knows it and is very nice to me." You don't like his lyrics? "I just like a time." The nuneful, musical-hating Staunton grew up in

north London. Both her parents were from the west of Ireland, her father a building contractor, ber mother a hairdresser. "She was the fiery one, my father was the calm one. That's where it all fie actingl comes from, the Celtic thing." The family (Imekia was an only child) lived over the shop. As a child, her taste in showbiz was for mid-century Americana. "I was a bit of a Frank Sinatra fan, people like him. When I was 11 or 12, I used to watch Dean Martin and Sinatra movies. I loved all that I was a rather old-fashioned child. I liked Tony Curtis when I was 11. I always liked the Forties, at least the showbiz period. And I noticed how, when we got our costumes for Guys and Dolls, all the guys said, 'Why don't we dress like this anymore?'

She went to a convent school, the La Sainte Union in Highgate, run by an order of French nuos, and has happy memories of the place - she's been back as a distinguished old girl, to talk to the Sixth Form. Part of the curriculum was a class in elocution, run by a Miss Stoker. She took a shine to the small but volcanic Imelda, encouraged her and steered her towards Rada. "I'm not sure what she saw in me. Maybe a future. But I was quite versa- Attorney and Driving Miss Daisy. Staunton laughed,

tile, and she used to get me to perform at drama festivals. I used to do funny pieces like "The Maid on the Phone". You remember The Three Faces of Eve, that Joanne Woodward movie? She re-cast it for me as a monologue. And then she started a drama class after school.

The super-critical Miss Stoker got ber protégée into Rada. She left at 20, in 1976, and her career took off. She joined the RSC and then in 1982,

'Out of make-up, out of costume and character, she is a mass of red curls, angry blue eyes and rough windblown complexion'

only six years after drama school, the National Theatre. She went through a dozen "small funny lady" parts (including The Fair Maid of the West for the RSC), before determinedly branching out into Chekhov and Dennis Potter, she was the deeply nasty Nurse White in The Singing Detec-tive. Of the people she has dealt with, she comes over most luvvie-isb about David Toguri, the Japanese American choreographer of Guys and Dolls ("He's an absolute genius. He makes dancers look like actors and actors look like dancers") and most defensive about Kenneth Branagh, who directed her in both Much Ado about Nothing and Peter's Friends. "I'm very protective about him because he's quite fantastic but the press don't seem to think so. Anyone who's ever worked for him knows his drive and energy and enthusiasm. You couldn't find a better producer, a better enabler than him". Was she in the Branagh Ham-

let? "No. It's a bloody oversight..."

I reminded her of the Goldie Hawn line in The First Wives Club, about how the only roles currently available to women are the girlfriend, the District

having rarely been out of work for more than a fortnight "That's an old one, the whinge about women in the theatre. I think playwrights are writing better and better parts for women. But you have got to keep taking parts as long as you can and not turning things down, because when you're 50 or 55, you'll start to run out.

Though she recently turned a mere 40, there is a distinct trace of incipient grande dame about Imelda. It's only noticeable when she's talking about her peer group of leading ladies, as if she has now joined their august company and it was time everyone knew about it. "There are lots of good parts around at the moment. Have you seen Janet McTeer in A Doll's House? The most breathtaking performance you'll ever see. If she doesn't get an Olivier award for that - if bloody Diana Rigg gets one [for Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?] and Janet doesn't, I'm going to be most pissed off..."

From her current perspective - happily married to the actor Jim Carter, with a bay daughter Bessy Beatrice, aged three - sbe considers the chronic yearning of the "character" actress, forever wondering where the next hob is coming from. "I suppose I did spend a lot of time thinking, 'I wish I was playing that' or 'Why can't I be in that?', and I'm so glad to have stopped all that. I've lost that pathetic need. It's not that I don't care any more. But if I didn't work for the next year or so, it'd be fine, as long as we could pay the mortgage".

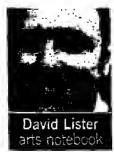
But what would she do if she didn't act? "I could get a job in a drama school." She means it. Imelda Staunton is giving up singing Adelaide at the end of the present NT run in March, and not coming back for the hig, all-thro'-the-summer run. But since she's turned the part into the higgest prima donna role on the London stage, was there anything more important?

"My life?" she says with an interrogative lift. "I just want to be at home with the baby. We may do another series of the sitcom [Is It Legal?] in August and I can't think of anything nicer than to have April, May and June at home. I bave my cake and I want to eat it all. I want to play this part and I want to go home". And with that, the equilibrial and straightforward actress who currently inhabits the soul of ditzy Everywoman with such passionate conviction on the Olivier stage, took herself off to be photographed, practising her Basder-Meinhof scowl for the camera. 'Guys and Dolls', Olivier, RNT, London, SEI (0171-928 2252) now previewing

Andrew and the Amazing Technicolor lawsuit

hose whose cultural reading may not extend to the court cases on the foreign pages of The Stage have missed a little treasure. A judge in New York has dismissed a claim for \$78.09 by a certain Andrew Lloyd Webber, As this sum would barely buy Sir Andrew branch in New York and the case was considered serious enough for a four-day non-jury trial, this was all rather puzzling. Reading on, it becomes more so.

Sir Andrew's claim was in fact a counter-claim against composer Ray Repp for allegedly stealing a song from his musical Joseph and the Anuzing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The \$78.09 was



the sum that Repp's song "Till You" had generated over the years - a heartless statistic to have read out in open court, but counterclaiming composers will stop at nothing when their honour is questioned.

Repp had actually sued Lloyd Webber first in 1990 claiming he had taken "Till

You" and turned it into the theme song from Phantom of the Opera. Lloyd Webber agreed to "borrowing" the song, but not from Repp. He claimed it was taken from his own song "Close Every Door", which was indeed in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and therefore if any illegal borrowing bad been done it was by Repp. Anyway, Repp's suit was thrown out in 1994, Repp appealed and Lloyd Webber filed his counter-claim. At this point, one stops to

marvel at the musical literacy of American judges. Dismissing the Lloyd Webber counter-claim. Judge Shirley Wohl Kram stated: "Although the songs

share some musical devices, such as rising arpeggios and descending tetrachords, such tools are among the most common devices used in music." Just the sort of throwaway lines they come out with at Lincoln's Inn. Happily both Repp and Sir Andrew have said they wifl appeal in their respective suits, so we can look forward to another memorable brush off for someone from Judge Shirley Wohl Kram.

It's also noteworthy that while Sir Andrew denied plagiarising any of Repp's material, he did admit to using works of Bach, Grieg and Holst for "Close Every Door". All happily out of copyright; but Repp managed to trump that. "Till

You" has lyrics taken from the book of Luke. It was a surprise to hear Sir Peter Hall say that he will be directing his first King Lear next year when he opens his new company at the Old Vic. To run the RSC and National Theatre for a quarter of a century and miss out on Lear is close to carelessuess. It was also a surprise as when Sir Peter returned to Stratford upon Avon to direct All's Well That Ends Well a few summers ago, the RSC publicity material claimed this was the one Shakespeare Sir Peter bad never directed. Actually there are a few still to do

including Much Ado About

well as Lear, he told me. But

Nothing and King John as

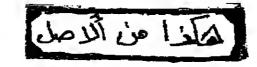
why let the facts get in the way of a good press release? Life is unpredictable for Lynn Redgrave at the moment. This Is Your Life surprised her after her onewoman show at the Haymarket Theatre, with sister Vanessa rushing over from John Gabriel Borkman at the National complete with stage snow in her hair. And last weekend Lynn flew to Washington to attend the Kennedy Arts Awards at the White House. Meeting President Clinton, she was ready with "you don't know me but" when he said: "Hey, I've just seen your new film, Shine. I had a home screening." So the President of the United States bas private screenings of low

budget Australian-made movies. Is he a secret arts

junkie? Or does he just have time on his bands? A Christmas lesson from the Academy of St Martin in . the Fields. Not just a lesson in good housekeeping, though unlike any other major British orchestra, it receives no government subsidy and remains the most recorded chamber . orcbestra in the world. Its real lesson is in how to combine a concert with the season of goodwill, Next . Tuesday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the concert culminating in Beethoven's First Symphony will involve audience and performers bringing a shoebox or other suitable container full of

practical items such as socks, shoes, hlankets and food. which will be distributed among the homeless. The Shoebox Concert thox-office number 0171-960 4242) could set a seasonnl lead and not just for orchestras. Roll on the shoebox pantomimes.





Put away childish things

Paul Taylor reviews alternative theatrical fare for younger people

t this time of year, children find themselves squeezed – figuratively speaking – at both ends. Instead of acting in shows developed from improvisation and real pupil mput, all too many glazed, over-rehearsed, mid-die-class schoolkids will have had to take part in Christmas "cntertainmeots" penned by adults. And what's worse, just the kind of adults who think it's huge fun if children are given, on occasion, archly "grown-up" lines to say thus essentially leaving them out of the joke and feeling unsure about what exactly the audience is laughing at.
Required to impersonate spurious sophistication as per-

formers, children are conversely expected, as consumers, to chaperone their pareots to shows that gratify an adult's distorted nostalgia for lost innocence. As is the case every year, the country is awash with stagings of Peter Pan - from the thrillingly large scale, such as Matthew Warchus's spectacular, airborne and emotionally painful rendering at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. to the charmingly intimate - like the version directed by Dilys Hamlett at the Watermill, Newbury, which finds cheeky ways of getting round the problem that, in this confined but beauti-

JM Barry, who bad sad biographical reasons for wanting to put perpetual prepubescence on a plinth, can be credited with creating the most supremely blackmailing moment in world drama. Poor Tinkerbell, having turned up trumps and drunk the poisoo to protect Peter, is about to twinkle her last twinkle. But then "She says - she says she thinks she could get well again if children believed in fairies! Say quick that you can believe! If you believe, clap your hands!" As a child, I used to wunder how you were supposed to clap your back.

Not that I'm armiret this moreout Voterday receiving

Not that I'm against this moment. Yesterday, reviewing Jonathan Miller's joylessly rationalist Midsummer Night's Dream, I argued that it came across as the work of someone who, when he was a child watching Peter Pan, would have allowed Tinkerbell to die, rather than clap his hands. This was intended as ao insult. You wouldn't want your childreo not to clap, or never to have believed in fairies: no the other hand, wouldn't it be fairer to them, after a certain age, to come clean and make a joke of the comical, sad fact that it's also to buttress adult illusions that they are being asked to applaud? This would constitute as bracing an introduction as any to the hizarreries of the grown-up world and its peculiar demands on children.

That moment in Peter Pan has been given shrewd creative twists by other writers. Towards the end of Beryl Baiohridge's fine novel, An Awfully Big Adventure, the heroine, a young member of a professional rep company putting oo Peter Pan, hears that the seasoned old pro playing Captain Hook, with whom she has been having underage sex, has apparently committed suicide. It's her job to final the total of the mirror that creates the illusion of Tinkerbell. That night, though, "Stella dropped the torch and let it roll into the wings as the children brought their palms together to save Tinkerbell. The light swished from the back-cloth. For a moment, the clapping cootinued, rose in volume, then died raggedly away, replaced by a tumult of weeping..." A wonderful objective correlative for the death of the remnants of this girl's innocence.



Beauty and the Beast? Liz May Price and Simon Gregor at the Young Vic

PHOTO: PAU ROS

'in denial" that he was ooce Peter Pan and lived in Neverland. This fascinating mess of a movie should be compulsory additional viewing for all children who go to the stage show because it's an invaluable insight into the way adults ofteo don't even know the right questions, let alone the correct answers.

Hook is full of signs that Spielberg is aware that our conception of childhood innocence has changed radically since Barry's "What is this - Lord of the Flies pre-school?" mutters an anxious Williams on rejoining the Lost Boys, who here are a jungledwelling, racially mixed gang of potential juvenile crime statis-tics. On the other hand, the movie buys into all that psychobabble about bonding with your inner child, and with Williams, as with most people who go oo in this way, you bope that when they find their inner child, it turns out to be the school bully.

There are two very interesting alternatives to Peter Pan's view of innocence now on in London. Adolescents would get something out of Strindberg's peculiar fairytale-like Swan White, directed now by Timothy Walker at the Gate. People familiar played by lisping American schoolchildren, is interrupted by the sound of a mobile phone. This belongs to Rohin Williams's Peter, a repressed lawyer who takes his work everywhere and is almost In Steven Spielberg's movie, Hook, the Tiokerbell scene, with this dramatist's Easter, with its useful neroline who can feel "Feter Fan": West xorks?

frightened of spending time with his kids. Why? Because be's the corollary of Strindberg's keen knowledge of the heart's darkness. But this story of a young girl who, left to the mercies of her wicked stepmother, oone the less eventually works ber way up to a selfless love that can raise the dead and offer forgiveoess, is a weird and refreshing change from panto.

Proving ooce again, though, that the Young Vic consistently produces the best young people's Christmas shows, Laurence Boswell's theatrically thrilling version of Beauty and the Beast is performed in an involving, presentational style. Not stioting on the knock-about comedy and properly scary with its spooky tall doors in the aisles, behind which all manner of fearful things may lurk. Boswell's versioo is also an imagistically haunting meditation on the idea (as A Midsummer Night's Dream puts it) that "Love looks oot with the eyes, but with the mind". The show is salutary for two other reasons. The Prince turns out to be quickily attractive rather than your standard dish. And when Beauty's prevarications kill the Beast, instead of finding her inner child, Beauty here finds her inner grown-up.

We two kingth

Cross-dressing, green fish and camcorders. Louise Levene on the delights of the nativity play

 be cast list for the playgroup nativity went up. Alexander would play the Gold King, Jack would play the Myrrh King. There was a blank space in between. "Who's bringing the Frankincense?"
"Ah. Slight problem. Jonathan wants to be a Queen."

The three-year-old's harmless firtation with cross-dressing didn't seem too troublesome at first. Nobody was fool enough. to ponder the implications for his sexuality at this early stage, and his mother wasn't weeping for her unborn grandchildren. Besides, if he thought of himself as a Queen, no one need ever know: the robes (two metres of acetate lining and a bit of tinsel) are entirely unisex. "OK, Jonathan, you can be a Queen."

Rehearsals begin.
"We thwee Kingth of Orwient are."

"Yes, Jonathan?" "I'm a QUEEN!" affirms Jonathan, stamping his little

"Yes, I know we agreed. You're a Queen."
"So it should be 'We two Kingth AND A QUEEN'."

Mayhem at the manger is part of the charm of the school nativity play. Indeed for many, weary of the nauseating sight of small, reluctant and totally inept performers shuffling through the old "Have you room at the inn? / Have you booked?" routine, it is the sole reason for attending. For every fond parent on their knees in the front row with a camcorder, there is a sour and jaded granny longing for her brood to outgrow the whole sorry spectacle. The only fun she gets is when the shepherds, armed with authentic crooks by an inexperienced play leader, hegin a full-scale fight in the stable straw.

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NEXT WEEK +

Of course, this is a piece of cake compared with many of the problems that can arise when staging what was once a straight-forward Christian pageant. The Pre-School Learning Alliance. anxious to reflect Britain's religious and ethnic diversity, taken the view that Christmas shouldn't get all the attention? In order to downplay the Christian element of the performance, nativity plays have come slightly admit from the New Testament. Ooce upoo a time the RE teacher would have locked young Jonathan in the stationery cupboard to learn Matthew 2, 1-12. Today playgroups are wary of antagonising other religious, and reluctant to force-feed the children of lapsed Anglicans with too much in the way of Christian doctrine. Very often the

ritual alooe is left, isolated from the texts that gave hirth to it.

As a result, your average coddler tends to regard the holy family pageant as a fancy diess free for-all. Mary, Joseph, Kings and the all-important "Baby Cheeses" are supplemented by soldiers, flower fairies, Ninja Power Rangers and anything else the dressing-up cupboard affords. No wonder the three-yearolds get confused. My local playgroup had a problem last year wheo explaining how Jesus's hirth is traditionally attended by a harnful of animals. The Chosen Sheep, decidedly underwhelmed by the prospect of attending the nativity io a fluffy

And not an Aladdin among them

Feeling pantophobic? From The Witches to Frankenstein, we review the best alternative Christmas shows in London

Dick Daredevil

Not content with producing a Christmas show that's for the family, the Steam Industry have come up with a musical comedy that's about the family, in particular about the role of fathers and the needs of sons. Set in London during the Blitz, Dick Daredevil tells the story of Billy Spratt and his mother, Rose. Billy's father bas been killed during the war, but numerous surrogates abound. There's Edmund, the feekless gay young man, who lives in Rose's guesthouse, and shares in Billy's innocent fantasies about the radin superhero Dick Daredevil. There's Charles, the suave American officer, who Rose considers marrying to give Billy a man around the house. And above all, there's Daredevil himself, a red-blooded (and red-tighted) superhero, whose intergalactic exploits Billy avidly follows on his mother's art deco radiogram.

When Edmund invents a machine that can travel to and from Dick's world, Billy gets it chance to show his mettle against the evil space emperor Von Rippenclaw – and to see how Daredevil copes with wartime England. To Phil Willmott's credit he manages to weave the subject subtly into the action, rather than ramming it down the audience's throat. Too subtly, perhaps. What should be the highlight of the piece, Billy's encounter with Daredevil in London, is passed over with reckless haste. All too brief, the best scene - a bittersweet sequence in which Daredevil sets out with Billy to full a Nazi plot against Churchill but ends up getting drunk in the pub - hints at what might have been.

All is not lost, though. Steven Markwick's score doesn't exactly send you out into Fitzrovia foot-tapping, but it runs the gauntlet from pastiche Cole Porter to pastiche Kurt Weill well enough. Sarah Payne puts in a fine singing performance as Billy's plucky mum, and Von Rippenclaw (Howard Samuels) makes a first-class villain, waxing lyrical about the "patter of little jackbootees". If the twin morals – anyone can be a hero, and families don't have to have fathers - ultimately seem a little pat, well, maybe it would help to be closer to Billy's age than Dick's.

Adrian Turpin
The Drill Hull, 16 Chenics Street, WCI (0171-637 8270).

Frankenstein: The Panto

Not Mary Shelley's monster-maker but Frankie N Stein, porter at Herr Pumpernickle's Bavarian hotel and brother of the culturally challenged Phyllis. Writer David Swan has co-opted Dracula and Dracula's grandmother, Granula, into this lowbudget hijinks, as well as a party of over-sexed schoolgirls and their only slightly less libidinous school mistress, Miss Nellie. As the self-regarding St Trinianette Bridget Bloggs fights the chambermaid Heidi for the attendon of Prince Ludwig, the dark count attempts to quench his thirst for virgin blood. Only a mad scientist with a penchant for peppermint saves the day.

Gillian King's snappy little production shares features with the big-oame, big-money pantomimes: shaving-foam pies. TV-inspired jokes (both television and transvestite) and a fondness for the words "bottom" and "knickers". But the Tabard Theatre's small space, as well as a young cast devoid of boxers and soap stars, make this a far more intimate affair, while John Asquith's commanding Nellie (always on the right side of inno-cent, even when performing a striptease) gives oew life to the cliche There is nothing like a dame". Tabard Theatre, Chiswick W4 (0181-995 6035). To 21 Dec

It's a brave theatre that sells wands that light up in the dark before its Christmas production. So it's a mark of David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's novel, that The Witches isn't lost behind a tinselly sea of swizzle sticks, borne aloft like cigarette lighters at a Barry Manilow concert. You can put a lot of this down to Dahl's compellingly idiosyncrane vision of what a witch is like: toeless, bald as a coot, possessed of blue spit and able to sniff out a child at 40 paces (apparently they smell of dog-droppings). No surprise that the biggest laughs go to a joke about "DIY gravy" (guess) and a rodent trapped down a waiter's pants. But Wood, who also directs, never lets the snot-laden gags.

or even the irritatingly cutesy puppet mice, distract from the plot. Nor is he afraid of stillness or to leave the stage almost bare when it suits his purpose. Dahl's strange coming-of-age fable about the orphaned Boy (a saccharin-free but winsome Karen Brif-

fett) who is transformed into a mouse comes through loud and clear, and is spared the happy-ever-after eoding grafted on to last year's Disney version. "How long does a mouse live?" asks the child condemned to spend the rest of his fife avoiding cats and eating cheese. "Not very long, I'm afraid," replies his grand-mother. Moring challenging and framy. The Witches is a cress at the Moules Marinières, the ooly thing I were was seasoned in my hair?" and the crest part and the moules marinières, the ooly thing I were was seasoned in my hair?" and the creat part and the moules marinières. clear, and is spared the happy-ever-after eoding grafted on to last year's Disney version. "How long does a mouse live?" asks the child condemned to spend the rest of his life avoiding cats and earing cheese. "Not very long, I'm afraid," replies his grand-mother. Moving, challenging and funny, The Witches is surprisingly intelligent fare for a West End children's show. At Vaudeville, The Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987). To 18 Jan

Oedipus: The Pantomime

The show that's not afraid to wear its eyes on its sleeve. Or so says the chorus. In fact, it's more a case of the blind leading the blind. The plot doesn't deviate that much from Sophocles' origmal (though the old man may be looking down from Olympus scratching his head at a couple of deities called Terry and Juno). Unfortunately, it's also not that much funnier. At the risk of sounding sick, the problem is that David Mitchell and Robert Webb's script is curiously tame. It first with bad taste, but never quite goes all the way. And, let's face it, what other reason can there be for doing Oedipus as a comedy than to plumb the depths? Still, if you're so over-educated that the exchange "How are the Bacchi today?" "Oh, ecstatic as usual" makes you split your sides, you may get some pleasure of it. Otherwise, go and buy Tom Lehrer's song tribute to the king of Thebes, which does much the same job but in a 50th of the time.

AT Pleasance, London N7 (0171-609 1800): To 12 Jan

Before his death earlier this year, Vivian Ellis penned three new songs for Listen to the Wind, a jolly slice of Victoriana, already jam-packed with arch little tunes about wicked pirates, sea witches and dopey talking birds. The story follows three children abducted from their home on Christmas Eve and spirited away to the Palace of Winds, where they defeat the evil forces of Black Thunder Cloud, a baddie with a "stormy" personality.

After a sticky beginning, where the poor little rich girl becomes friends with her ruffian cousins, and the company sing an interminable pastiche parlour song called "Timothy's Under the Table",

weed in my bair") and the cast perform with gusto, but this 1954 musical certainly shows it's age.

After two hours of drawing-room whimsy, you begin to feel as though someone has been force-feeding you glace cherries. For little children, the adventure and magical set design should keep them rapt, but while grown-ups may relish Ellis's precious pun-ning about Miranda's "larks" with "sharks", you can't help wonderwhat anyone between the ages of seven and consent will make of it all. If they're not sniggering over the otle, I suspect they may find it all a bit rich. King's Head, Upper St. London N1 (0171-226 1916). To 19 Jan

The Servant of Two Masters

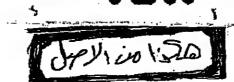
I still haven't quite got over a distrust of Carlo Goldoni since going to see Countrymania, the National Theatre's bum-numbingly leaden medley of the Italian's work, in the 1980s. Ted Craig's Servant of Two Masters is something else, whispy as the top of a cappuccino (indeed, its chessboard and primary colours design is rem-

iniscent of that masterpiece of aeration, Ian Judge's RSC Comedy of Errors). It's also about as our ishing as cappuccino, but who's to begrudge a little well-whisked froth at Christmas? The story is a kind of 18th-century cross between Up Pompeii and Carry On Eating, its hero the servant Ruffaldino, who runs himself off his feet trying to serve two masters at once. It's full of clattering plates, slaps to the head, fast-swinging doors and a tri-fle the size of St Peter's dome in Rome. There's food in the audience, too, where tables have been set aside for patrons to eat and drink. If Miltos Yerolemon sometimes tries a little too hard to be liked as the eponymous manservant, there's ample consolatioo in some finely drawn supporting performances, not least Richard Kane's Venetian merchant as Jewish East End businessman, Pantalone. An enjoyable evening. Warehouse Theatre, Croydon (0181-680,4060). To 26 Jan

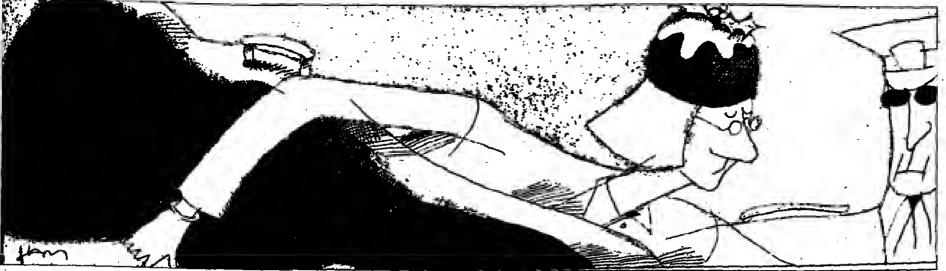


"a romantic delirium for troubled times"

KARL MILLER, Observer



THIS HO.



The Suet crisis averted

You'd think that making your debut in Vienna's Musikverein might inspire a few nerves. But sheer terror? Ian Pillow recounts a wicked tale of breaking the British beef ban to save a few pence at Christmas

on its descent to the airport, I see out of the window the city of Vienna spread below me. We, the members of the Bournemouth Symphony, are on our way to perform in the hallowed hall of the world-famous Musikverein (home to the mighty Vienna Philharmonic) and my first sight of the city sends waves of apprehension shivering through my

body. Beads of sweat hreak forth oo my brow. One would expect the odd tingle of anticipa-don or even a small butterfly to flap lazily inside the ample stomach of an old dog scarred by many years of hattle; but full-scale terror?

The reason is not so much the thought of performing to ears accustomed to hearing the world's finest orchestra, or facing the wrath of smuggling operation.

For on my person is concealed nothing less than my sister's Christmas pudding, destined for the larder of my niece in Frankfurt, where

implications of my actions.

The alarm bells started rioging in the band room a few weeks ago when my colleagues were relating the tale of a violinist who had wanted to save money by packing a week's supply of Pot Noodles on a trip to Finland, only to be Ihwarted by a rule forbidding the import of reconstituted nieat.

And therein lies the problem. I feel sure that the pudding will have been made of beef suer. luggage is first spewed out, and surreptitiously and as Germany and British beef are not exactly back-slapping hest buddies at the moment, it

s the plane flies out of the low clouds caught with it would be worth at least two years

Just think of the headlines if the story broke. "Orchestra's performance contaminated by BSE-carrying viola player." What's more, I have learnt that if the orchestra is delayed while the pudding is sent off for analysis, making us late for the concert, we would incur a fine of £2,000. I feel the weight of the orchestra's success or failure on my shoulders. The pudding might, of course, be made from vegetarian suet, but being an ancient Pillow recipe, and looking at surviving ancient Pillows, that seems unlikely.

I therefore had an awkward decision to make. I could have put the pudding in a suitcase, which might have been less likely to be searched. But as our ancient BAC 111 plane (chartered from the world's most discerning critics. The truth is, I have become party to a daring international weight limit, there would only have been weight limit, there would only have been enough weight left for a cuff-link.

So hand luggage it had to be. The oo foil wrapped round the pudding has already set the metal detectors ringing at Bournemouth When I had airly agreed to save my sister the postage stamps, I had not realised the full implications of my actions

Somehow the phrase "It's only a Christmas pudding" - uttered in one's own language, at one's home town airport - doesn't exactly sound John Le Carré, but here in a strange land and with only "ein Kaffee bitte" to get me out of trouble, this moment of reckoning is awe-inspir-

popping it into my suitcase the moment the case appeared; but there isn't room for it. Alternaalmost certainly be a no-no. Getting tively I could plonk the pudding oo to the playing in the coocert is so easy-peasy that I can Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

carousel, rush to the other end and pick it off right under the oose of the customs official, exclaiming loudly, "Aha! Here is my sister's 100 per cent vegetarian Christmas pudding, which is going to the poor people of Vienna," but my German phrasebook doesn't quite run to that. Nor, fortunately, does "Seize that man; he has a suet pudding" occur in too many of the phrasebooks belonging to those colleagues who have threatened to blow the lid off the whole

scam with that one devastating sentence. "Don't worry. Just walk normally," says one

of my more sympathetic companions.

I have never "walked normally" to order in my life before. I suddenly can't remember how to do it. Put one foot in froot of the other and transfer the weight from the back of the froot foot to the front of the front foot and lift the hack of the hack foot and carry it to the front. The dummy run (walk?) is oot a success, particularly as, in order to appear nonchalaot, my gaze is thrust 90 degrees upwards while I try to whistle "The Blue Danube". A less than wise choice - the sixth note onwards is way out of range. (You try it.) The total effect is odd a curious lope like a slow-motion ice-skating kangaroo emitting occasional high-pitched squeaks at the ceiling.

Eventually a semi-satisfactory choreography

is achieved as I limp through the "Nothing to Declare" channel like a paraplegic crah - head bowed away from the customs official to my right, and the hold-all hard against the left leg and the chioa basin with its reinforced coningly terrifying, and the chioa basin with its reinforced con-I did have the idea of sneaking the podding crete cooteots painfully bombarding my left knee. I have changed my repertoire to "The Radetsky March"

The ploy works like a charm. I am through. After the pressures of international crime, only assume the standing ovation and shouts of "Bravo!" are in recognition of my fearless hero-ism against officialdom. A veritable Robio Hood among viola players.

I can now sit back and enjoy the rest of There are a few dress problems in Frankfurt.

I am playing the concert in soaking wet clothes, having completely forgotten about the law of displacement ("When a large body is immersed in a small bath...") and allowed a odal wave of scapy water to overflow the bathroom floor upon which my concert dress lay waiting.
One of the coach drivers has off-loaded a case

containing an oboist's concert clothes at the hotel instead of at the hall where they are needed. Our tour guide has taken a taxi back from the hall to the hotel, picked up the case, taxted back and left the case in the taxi. The taxi has now returned to the hotel and deposited the case with the porter, who has gone and put a violinist's case on to a coach belooging to another orchestra that is now heading for the other end of the country.

This spanking new hotel boasts the latest hitech security system. You wave a plastic card hopefully in mid-air in the lift, whereupon you zoom up to the floor on which your room is located. Should you he invited on to another floor to inspect a friend's tea-making facilities, you have to go all the way down to reception and face an embarrassing interrogation.
"Warum gehst Sie zu funfte Etage?"

"Ich möchte das Hanky Panky."

In the Bierkeller after the coocert, we sit around discussing the shortcomings of the hanky-panky-proof hotel. "Someone with criminal mind could crack the system."

All eyes turn on me. Ian Pillnw is a viola player with the

Twin peaks

CLASSICAL MUSIC Katia and Marielle Labèque

Barbican Centre, London

atia is the shorter sister. sound reflected their different who frizzes her hair and has a wicked twinkle in her eye. Marielle looks like a Renaissance Madenna and acts like the elder. (There are two years between them. though I can oever remember effort. But there are some which way.) On Thursday sensational arrangements of night, Katia almost had to push Marielle into a second encore, a sort of fantasy on The Entertainer, by which time she was in party mood, all flailing arms and naughtily pointed fingers, which made the audience laugh. She might have been cotertaining the boys to Destry Rides Again. Perhaps Marielle sent her to bed without supper afterwards.

Of course, it's all an act. Two pianos are a rich, extrav-agant medium, with the poten-tial for dramatic sparring, and the Labèques make the most of it. But they do really play together, as only dedicated duos can, and, despite Katia's antics, they don't overload the decibels. Which would have heen so easy in the chaste classical language of Mozart's Sooata in F for two players at ooe piaoo, and his hetterknown Sonata in D for two pianos. Here, a little hit of contrast between them wasn't crossover oumbers, Katia unwelcome, for Katia is the spinning a thin little teodril of more brittle, percussive player, a melody to begin, then both while Marielle sinks deeper erupting in a tumultuous Latin into the keys and sustains a more resonant legato. The

personalities. It's odd that the original

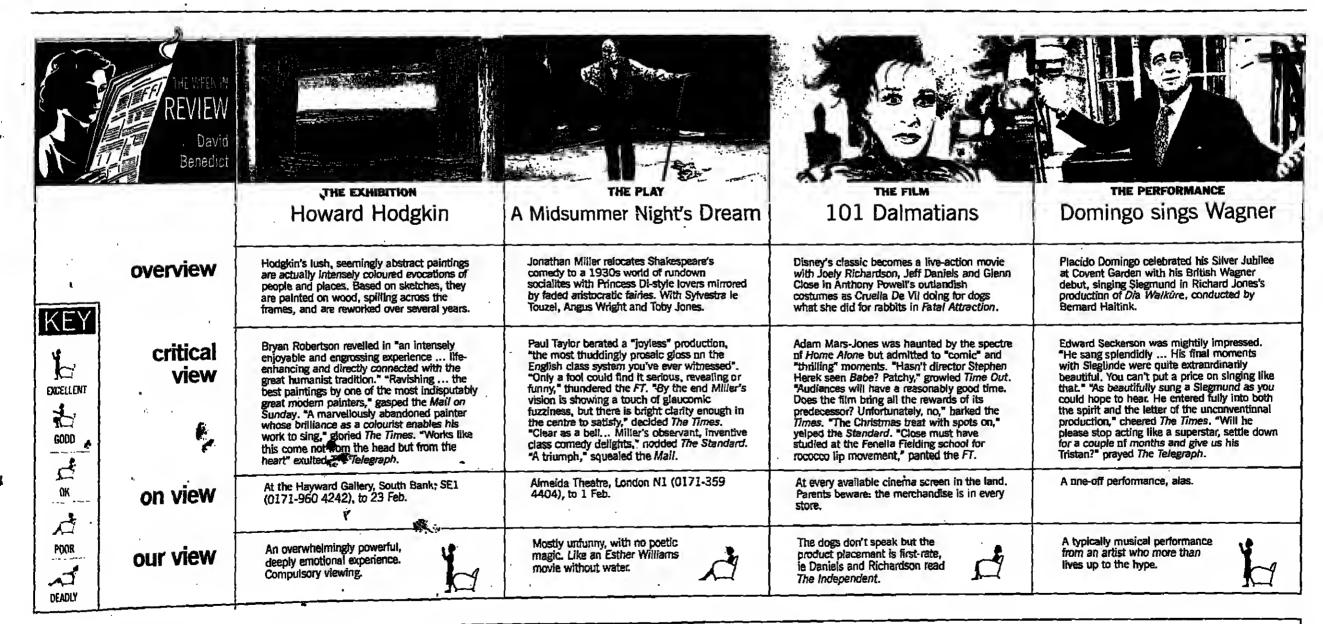
repertoire isn't larger, though writing for two pianos is a lot of work and there aren't so many good duos to reward the orchestral music. Hearing Ravel's transcription of the fus. two of Debussy's Nocnames, "Nuages" and "Fetcs". was almost more thrilling than hearing the original, because of the added frisson of discovering bow the unlikely could be managed. The Labèques played both with a wonderful car for Dehussy's colours and textures, and judged tempi perfectly. Their fingerwork and ensemble were immaculate. A pity we didn't get the last Nocturne. "Sirenes", then Katia could

have added the vocals. Ravel's own Rapsodie Espagnole followed, as sultry and evocative as it was disciplined by understatement. It's such fastidious music, it hardly invites exaggeration. So the girls earnt the right to go a bit flash, and launched into Michel Camilo's Jazz on Fire, one of their irresistible

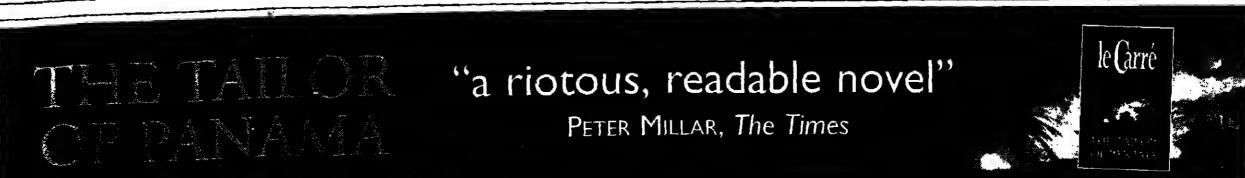
Adrian Jack



Labèque sisters: Immaculate fingerwork and ensemble



NEXT WEEK: Four pages of arts, entertainment, Christmas services and walks in the Long Weekend. Plus: 14 days of TV in the Eye



From Eatanswill to Foot's last stand

Robin Cook listens to the shining wits of Westminster

The Literary Companion to Parliament edited by Christopher Silvester, Sinclair-Stevenson, £30 The Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations edited by Anthony Jay, Oxford, £15.99

eing a Member of Parliament is not a profession hut ao obsession. We work daily 12-hour shifts in its offices. We take three meals a day in its tea rooms and canteens. Our seose of reward is a speech well-received. Our sense of fun is a speech well-tackled.

Anyone who shares our obsessioo to the extent of producing 600 pages of memoirs about Parliament starts out with our prejudices behind him. I hegan by really wanting to admire the mooumental fruits of Christopher Silvester's lahour, hut even a mutual obsessioo could not sustain my enthusiasm.

He produces some interesting facts for addicts of Trivial Pursuit - for instance, that the tea room consumed 224lbs of bacon rashers in an all-night sitting. But the overall effect is curiously lifeless and does not capture the passion, the venom or the grandeur of Par-

The first problem is that his Com-panion is not at all literary. I could find not any extract from the macy covels that flit through Parliament. Dickens is cited as a sketch writer, but there is no quotation from Our Mutual Friend of the satirical dash to take the mood of the nation in Central Lobby, or from Pick-wick Papers about the election for the Borough of Eatanswill. Incredibly, Trol-lope has not a single entry, although no literary figure has written more about Parliament or appeared more famously as the favourite reading of Conservative Prime Ministers.

Silvester's chief sources are MPs writing diaries for their own eotertainment; hut people writing privately about their own obsession tend oot to produce great literature. It is unnecessary for him to include a spectacularly tedious chapter on great bores when most chapters provide adequate proof that MPs can iodeed be hores. The second problem is that Silvester appears to be under the impression that Parliament was suspended at the time of the Suez Crisis and never recoovened. The half century in which the hulk of his poten-

tial buyers grew up is missing.
The chapter on ladies in Parliament



The Rights of a Seditious Poltroon: Paine is burned on a bonfire of his 'Rights of Man' stoked by Pitt. A klitted Dundas dances as Burke directs the merriment. Published 16 January, 1793 and taken from 'Edmund Burke: A Life in Caricature' by Nicholas K Robinson (Yale University Press, £30)

contradiction in terms. Most of the quotations are about women in the Ladies' Gallery, with only two entries for the

dominant parliamentary figures of this century was Margaret Thatcher. It is impossible to understand the excessively

leaves the reader with the nagging susperiod after the suffragettes succeeded. adversarial character of the Commons the previous Labour government, othfrootational personality.

Occasions" contains neither the fall of agree that one of those events was

erwise remembered as Foot's Last Stand, nor the resignation speech of The chapter on "Great and Terrible Margaret Thatcher. Yet everyone can

Great and the other Terrible, even though there may be different views as to which way round the descriptions fit.

No-one who was there on the day of Mrs Thatcher's last speech at the Despatch Box will forget how a weary, defeated woman was transformed into the familiar handhagger when she rounded an a beckler. One of the reasons she survived so long in office, despite dishing out a diet of unpopular policies, was that she could command the Commons. Cooversely, one of the reasons why the present government is in terminal decline is that it is saddled with a PM who cannot even command the respect of the Press Gallery: Yet the significance of Parliament as the crucible of our political system is lost among this encyclopaedia of gostip and

By cootrast, Antony Jay's Oxford Dic-tionary of Political Quotations provides a sharp insight into the beat of politi-cal exchange. Mrs Thatcher is vividly portrayed, in Matthew Parris's sketch of her introdoction into the House of Lords, as "a big cat detained briefly in a poodle parlour, sharpening her claws on the velvet". And the best of the past is here - Tom Paine, for example, more acerbic than any modern sketch writer, reporting the failure of Burke in debate: "He rose like a rocket, he fell like a

Yet the collection is also absolutely cootemporary with generous entries for both Tony Blair and John Major. Iain Macleod's cotries express better than any others the wit and invective of debate. How could an opponent recover from this charge: "I cannot help it if every time the Opposition are asked to name weapons they pick a boomerang"?
The success of the Dictionary is that

most cotries were intended for publication, and many are polished gems. This is indeed a companion with which to while away a late-night sitting. I would not he entirely surprised to detect some of the quotations being recycled to adorn the occasional speech. There is, after all, no greater praise a parliamentarian can offer than a threat

Crash test dummies

Sean French prefers high-tech hardware to cardboard characters

Airframe by Michael Crichton, Century, £16.99

Michael Crichton is that he isn't much good at the things best-selling writers are supposed to be good at. He theme park was likely to go has almost no interest in story-telling or plot construction. The climactic twist in each of his last three thrillers (which all concern companics on the verge of a hig deal) depends on the pivotal event being accidentally recorded: by a security camera in Rising Sun, by an answering machine in Disclosure, by a camcorder in Airfranie. He can't write action scenes; unfortunately, he writes them anyway, and the example in the new book is both tedious and almost

laughably irrelevant. His gift is for technical and hureaucratic processes, the very things that most literary novelists skimp on, and he oranages to make them exciting. This can have some pecuthrilling, page-turning part of Jurassic Park was the first 150 pages or so, with all the technical details about how Even those of us who know dinosaur DNA might be that flying is far safer than

the interesting use of chaos theory (botched in the film) to explaio why the dinosaur wrong. It was the last half of the book, in which cardboard dinosaurs pursued cardboard characters, that was barely readable.

This is why Michael Crichton's finest project is ER, a television show that has eliminated the traditional structure of stories and relationships and is based almost entirely on the absorbiog detail of what goes on in a casualty department. A team of brilliant writers and actors added one more ingredient living human beings, a species hitherto absent from Crieh-

Crichton also has a canny, often unpleasant, instinct for dark primitive fears: of genetic engineering in Juras-sic Park; of foreigners in Rising Sun; of powerful women in Disclosure; and in Airframe. our fear of flying.

Even those of us who know

pulses quicken on page two: "She clutched at her daughter, pulling her close. Now it felt like the plane was going straight down, and then suddenly it was going up, and her stomacb was pressed into the

Airframe begins with a mys-

terious incideot on a passeoger flight that leaves three passengers dead and the aircraft interior almost totally destroyed. The explanation must be found in a week, or the plane's manufacturer will Contrary to some reports,

this is not a thriller about air safety. It is a thriller about the perception of air safety, which is a much more interesting and complicated subject. Consequeoily. Crichton's leading character is not the chief of the accident investigation but Cascy Singleton, the Quality Assurance rep on the Incident Review Team. She must not only find out what went wrong but deal with the irresponsible press

reaction. This relatively con-

he curious thing about farmed and replicated, and eveling to work will feel our tained accident draws in the plane's manufacturer, its clients all over the world, the company's workers and the media.

Crichton's account of the relationship between them is awesomely impressive. He may describe a woman as if be has only read about one in a manual, but he is wooderfully particular about what exactly bappens in an investigation, the way things work and, just as important, the way things don't work.

The weirdly gifted Crichton can make the question of document storage seem excit-ing and a night-time chase through an aircraft hangar seem boring. There is a hrilliant three-page sceoe oo how to be interviewed on televi-

The final twist is a bit of a disappointment, especially if, like me, you have read the news item which gave Crichton the idea. But the pages of my copy have gone puffy from being read for too long in the bath: a far more telling sign of approbation.

Gross indecency

Michael Arditti convicts the '50s Establishment of vicious bigotry

Heterosexual Dictatorship by Patrick Higgins, Fourth Estate, £18.99

heard the dread words "I shall now read the minutes of the last meeting" will have reason to fear Patrick hlow-by-blow account of the workings of the Wolfenden Committee. Fortunately, these fears are sooo dispelled by Higgins' account of a key, if largely symbolic, moment in the liberalisation of British sexual mores.

Higgins is concerned to challenge many myths about the committee and, in particular, about its chairman who. since his death, has been elevated to the pantheoo of sec-ular saints. Higgins paints a picture of a craven careerist, toadying to official witnesses, while barely courteous to the "criminal" Peter Wildeblood. Although in a minority, he refused to recommend a gay age of consent of 18.

Those looking for a working definition of the British Establishment could do worse than take the lawyers, doctors, churchmen, MPs, academics and one peer who made up the committee. Eveo the most

A nyone who has ever "liberal" peer, Goronwy Rees, treatment and opponents who reports of court cases, which wrote a series of articles in The People about his friend, Guy Burgess, in which he described him as a Jekyll and Hyde with "depraved tastes". In fact, it was Rees himself who exhibited the split personality, a lone voice of tolerance in committee while demanding a witch-hunt in the tabloid press.

Some of the committee's antics resemble a Whitehall farce. To safeguard their female clerical workers, they decided on the euphemisms Huntleys (homosexuals) and Palmers (prostitutes). Wolfeoden opposed hearing evidence from bomosexuals themselves for fear of attracting exhibitionists. He had no idea of the numbers of men involved and refused to accept the Kinsey Report.

Higgins documents the virulent homophobia of the period. True to its 19th-century model, homosexuality was regarded as a disease by liberals and reactionaries alike. The distinction lay between reformers who saw it as a mental disorder that needed

considered it an infection that would corrupt society. The church maintained its antagonism, the Bishop of Rochester even declaring that he found himself "feeling more sympathy with a curate or scoutmaster who has offended with a boy than with two men misbehaving together."

Press coverage, with a few exceptions, was grossly indecent. The rush for advertisers and circulation hattles led to coarsening of sensibilities in both journalists and readers. Parliameotary prejudice ran rife; although, remarkably, the young Margaret Thatcher proved to be a constant supporter of reform. In the Lords, Archhishop Ramsay's admis-sion that be knew the difference between oral and anal sex led one peer to claim that he had "turned Hansard into a

piece of pornography." In the second part, Higgins provides extensive documentation of 1950s homophobia. This section is less analytical and less effective - than the first, consisting largely of short

come to resemble a relentless diet of the seamier Sunday newspapers. There are sad tales of blackmail and extortion, evidence of the lengths to which lonely men would go to ohtain a little love. The behav-iour of one Gloucester Cathedral curate reads like a Le Carré spy tale. We learn of a vicar who asked an 18-year-old to view his model railway and a farmer whose teenage boyfriends slept over hecause they were "crazy about milking". They, like so many oth-

ers, were found guilty. Reading this material demonstrates bow radically society has changed in the past 40 years, and yet the 1950s distinction between the good homosexual (heterosexual in all but sex) and the bad homosexual (challenging, promiscuous) remains. Higgins belongs to the activist, street-theatre rather than teawith-John-Major teodeocy. But anyone who considers the title unwarranted in a liberal democracy will have thought again by the end of the book.

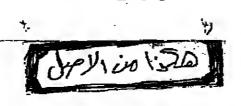
'Far and away the best autobiography of the year'- The Independent

ROBERT ROBINSON **MEMOIRS**

Skip all that

'Robinson is a superb professional broadcaster, but is also, as this entertaining and colourful volume shows, a superb writer'- The Spectator

"...we should cherish him as we used to cherish Evelyn Waugh" -Sheridan Morley, The Independent





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n early December, a newsprint blizzard swamps us with advice on which books to buy for Christmas. Canny punters know that this sage counsel adds up to no more than log-rolling either far bonkshap chains, or to boost the egos of those hothouse flowers who fill books-of-the-year slots. Yet sceptical consumers at this time crave an antidote to hype. This column tries to fill that gap, and sweetens the unseasonal vinegar with some ideas for better buys.

It would (for example) be a crying shame if anyone who wants a guide in pop opted for the nerdy lists in Q's Encyclopedia of Rock Stars (Dorling Kindersley)
rather than the wit and nous of The Rough Guide to Rock (Penguin). But sometimes hype-evasinn has more in dn with value than merit. There's nothing wrong with Longitude (Fnurth Estate). Dava Sobel's tale of horological skullduggery, except that it's a lungish article decked out in hard covers. The cornucopia of breakthroughs in

Science could see readers right through into 1997. Sometimes, though, a gulf in quality hints at a deeper cultural chasm. Sir Roy Strong's overpriced Story of Britain (Hutchinson) delivered insular heritage histnry while Norman Davies's Europe: a history (Oxford) brought a continent to pulsating life - for a tenner less.

Jnhn Carey's Faber Book of

The familiar name also proved the nawise choice in crime fiction. Colin Dexter's Death Is Now My Neighbora (Maemillan) revealed its author's limits; retire Morse and hire any deft whodunnit by Reginald Hill (Harper-Collins). You can also forget plodding John Grisham (The Runarray Jury, Century) while Scott Turow has his latest thinking-person's blockbuster on the shelves (The Laws of our Fathers, Viking).

Even readers daft enough to huy books by actors need a helpful hint or two: for instance, about Alec Guinness's My Name Escapes Me (Hamish Hamilton) – so slight, you're amazed it doesn't float away like thistledown. Hnwever, even the sps can manage gravitas at times: see Claire Bloom's riveting memoir. Leaving a Doll's House (Virago).

Bloom transforms her emotional knnts into readable prose. No such concern bothers Adam Phillips, the decade's smartest shrink, in Monoganiv (Faher), Whatever these coy riddles teach, it isn't Emotional Intelligence (Bloomsbury): Daniel Guleman's humane account of why nice guys finish first.

t meant to close this Xmas blacklist with a dig at Melvyn Bragg's Dark Ages doorstop. Credo (Hodder). After all. people who hanker for a long dull chronicle set in the remote past can always read Tony Blair's Desert Island Book: Scott's hanhoe. Then I sat opposite somenne who was not only immersed in Bragg's 7th-century quagmire, but 95 per cent of the way through. Soppy Yuletide thoughts returned. Better. surely, to cherish an imperfect book than none at all.

Boyd Tonkin

Dis-Consulate at Waterloo

Does Euro-integration have its roots in the Napoleonic wars? Amanda Foreman reports

gration from the road to Waterloo? This is the real question behind Alistair Hnrne's study of Napolenn's decline and Gregor Dallas' account of the 1815 Congress of Vienna. Their answer is - not very far at all.

Horne's How Far From Austerlitz (Macmillan, £20) is foremost a gripping narrative nf Napolenn's downward spiral from Emperor to exile. He portrays his hero as a proud and complicated man whose far-reaching amhitinn hlinded him to his challenges at close range. He was born Nahulione Buona-

parte in 1769, the second son of a minor Corsican family. Napoleon swiftly rose through the ranks of the French revolutionary army to become a general before he was 25. At 30, after successful campaigns in Italy and Egypt he mnunted a coup d'éut against the Directory and pro-

claimed himself First Consul. By 1807, Napoleon directly ruled more than 44 million people. The French empire stretched from Hamburg to Rome, and the rest nf Europe - except Britain - was either marshalled into Kingdoms under his numerous family or yoked into his Continental System, So, asks Horne, what went wrong?

His explanation lies with Napolenn's psychology. The Emperor was so dazzled by his triumph at Austerlitz that he refused to listen to Talleyrand's counsel of moderation and imposed the harshest terms on the defeated Allies. His arrngance forced France onto a footing of continuous war with the rest of Europe and made her eventual exhaustion inevitable, By 1812, when Napoleon invaded Russia, he was without friends abroad and vulnerable at home. The Russian winter decimated his 600,000 strong army and the Third Coalition easily routed the survivors.

Horne has an unrivalled ability to transform military manoeuvres into striking cinematic images. Few historians today can match the force and breadth of his vision. In so far

ow far is European inte- as his book concentrates on tion meeting to discuss the dis-Napoleon it is a triumph and should interested in French history.

The nnly quibble is with Horne's somewhat forced parallels between Napoleon and Hitler. Of course there are superficial similarities; yes. Napoleon and Hitler were both gengraphical nutsiders in their countries, and both invaded Russia on 22 June. But Napoleon liberated; Hitler enslaved. Napoleon marched into Russia with a single army. Hitler invaded on three fronts. He also expected help from the Finns, and when his army halted notside Moscow it was to adopt a defensive positinn - a tactic that benefits from winter conditions.

In his epilogue, Horne directly addresses the "British Eurosceptics of the 1990s" and advises them to accept the necessity of European integration. Europe's coalitions prove that isolated powers "are usu-ally doomed." This contention raises two issues. First, his analogy between modern European integration with old-fashioned military co-nperation is a false one. Britain has participated in European military coalitions since the Crusades. It does not follow that Eurosceptics' desire to remain outside the ERM would leave Britain "doomed".

Second, it is not clear whether the anti-Bonaparte coalitions played any meaningful part in Napoleon's defeat. The First Coalition hetween Russia, Prussia, Austria. Spain and Britain collapsed in 1796, leaving Britain isolated. The Second Coalition lasted for three years to 1802 and again Britain was isolated, the Third was harely more than a name before 1812, and for most of the war Britain struggled on her own with almost every port in Europe closed to her, Until Russia's triumph, the only notable successes against Napoleon were achieved by the Royal Navy and by Wellington in Spain.

Gregor Dallas's 1815: The Road to Waterloo (Richard Cohen Books. £25) hegins with the Third Coali-

memberment of Napoleon's empire he required reading for anyone at the Congress of Vienna. The French monarchy was restored. The map of Europe was brutally redrawn without regard to nationalities, and the eight signatories agreed on a system of co-operation.
Although Dallas doesn't address the Eurosceptics of the 1990s personally, many of his remarks are clearly pointed in their direction. The Congress of Vienna was, in his npinion, akin to "a parliamentary assembly of the states of Europe". and remains one of the great achievements of the 19th century.

Dallas is not as elegant a writer as Hurne, but he combines a mastery of detail with a vivid, almost racy style. He makes a technical subject - the diplomacy of Metternich, Talleyrand, Castlereagh, and Tsar Alexander I – extraordinarily compelling. But his enthusiasm for the Congress goes too far. He misrepresents Castlereagh as a proto-Euro-integrationist although the Foreign Secretary went to Vienna simply to preserve peace in Europe by maintaining the halance of power. As evidence that "within days" of arriving Castlereagh had "become a European", Dallas cites his hope that co-operation between Great Powers would give them the "efficiency and almost the simplicity of a single state".

Castlereagh never envisaged a united or integrated Europe. His concern was the defence of existing frontiers, Metternich and Alexander I on the other hand wanted to defend aristocratic institutions. In practice this meant intervention to crush independence movements in Europe and smother dissent at home. Britain's refusal to take an active part in these counter-revolutionary efforts soon isolated her. In any case, "co-operation" degenerated into rivalry and the Congress soon fell apart. Its lasting legacy to Europe was insurgent nationalism.

One of the participants at the Congress was Admiral Sir Sidney Smith. He had travelled at his own



total abolition of the Slave Trade. His life is the subject of an outstanding hiography, A Thirst for Glory by Tom Pocoek (Aurum Press, £19.95). Smith – a true English eccentric who attired himself in Turkish costume and ate rats believing they were cleaner than pigs, never received the honours he

expense to lobby ministers for the desired or deserved. Nelson's vic- of insanity. But he was also a superb tory at Trafalgar cast an ineradicahie shadow over his own exploits. Yet Smith was responsible for driving the French out of the Middle East. Napoleon said of him, "that man made me miss my destiny."

Smith had many faults including vanity and a fatal tendency to melodrama. He was reckless to the point

tactician and the first person to recognise the potential of Robert Fulton's designs for torpedoes and submarines. Pocock claims that Smith's reputation would be much higher today if he had not been such a difficult and unpopular colleague. At last, thanks to Pocock, rehabilitation is surely round the carner.

Hartebeeste, mio, with love from Dearduck

Charles Nicholl wonders whether Malcolm Lowry should have written more books and fewer letters

Sursum Corda! The Collected Letters of Malcolm Lowry, Vol II: 1946-57 edited by Sherrill E Grace, Cape, £40

writer's collected letters are a day be read and judged as text? Acurious monument, occupying an ill-defined space between the Life and the Works. They are not quite hingraphy and not quite literature hut sometimes seem like a giant, ongoing rough draft.

Malcolm Lowry's voluminous letters are fascinating in this way: rapid. specific, full of raw detail. They can seem totally unguarded, but are probably not. Lowry was an instinctive performer, and his personal letters were written with an car half-cocked to posterity. A letter to his wife here begins "Harte-beeste mio" and ends "All Love,"

This isn't just the gnod hits: it's everything. The collection conveys a sense of huge, squandered verhal beeste mio" and ends "All Love, a sense of huge, squandered verhal the womaniser – and some vivid ideas, synopses and treatment fill glimpses of his life in Mexico in the the letters. They will become the

Sherrill E Grace's edition of his letters, Sursum Corda!, now completed with this second volume, is almost literally a monument. With 1700 pages, it contains about 1000 letters and manuscripts written from 1926 to 1957. It is certainly exhaustive, and sometimes exhausting. One does not quite get "Two pints Gold Top please", but had such a note survived it would duly

sketch of the milkman.

be here, with a hrief bingraphical

One is regaled by an almost palpahle conversational style: fluent, allusive, buttnn-holing, a desperate gin-fuelled geniality one step away from despair. "Sursum corda" (lift up your hearts), was a favourite sign-off line of Lowry's, and there is samething strangely uplifting about these letters, even if the uplift is more adrenal than spiritual.

On the surface this is a less picturesque period of Lowry's brief life. The first volume had a certain Inuche flair - Lowry the black sheep, the drifter, the literary barfly, form. Eddying drifts of half-formed on marital intimacy, or did he know out. Lowry should have written mid-1930s, the background of his brooding, posthumous works like that even his pet-names would one more books and fewer letters. It masterpiece, Under the Volcano. We Dark as the Grave Wherein My

also permits a growing familiarity. begin in 1946, with Under the Vol-friend is Laid. We catch them here cano completed and about to be published. Lowry is in his mid-thirties, settled happily if tempestuously with his second wife, the former Hollywood starlet Margerie Bonner. They are hriefly in Haiti, but most of the time at the "beach shack" they owned at Dollarton on the coast of British Columbia.

These Canadian years are full of literary struggle, financial difficulties, black-outs, injuries. Lowry found it increasingly difficult to

still raw, attached to his own life. He maps out the mood of the story that became October Ferry to Gabriola: "I want to convey that it isn't alcoholism in the true sense hut a kind of death, or half life". What he is conveying is his own life, not yet transliterated into fiction.

In 1954, Lowry left the Americas for the last time. He was in bad shape physically and mentally. The following year, in London, he was hospitalised and wrote to his New York publisher, Albert Erskine: "the reaper is omnipresent but it is by no means grim for all that, in fact I spend most of my time shirtless on the cricket pitch in the dew".

He delayed the reaper on this

occasion too: this is a sagu of selfdestruction, hut also hrute strength. He died, aged 48, in a rented house in Sussex - "by misadventure" as the coroner found, by the ravages of chronic alcoholism in reality - in June 1957. His last letter is to the playwright Harvey Burt, enthusing about a recent trip to Grasmere. It ends with a plangent quotation from Wordsworth's Prelude: "Ye lowly cottages wherein we dwelt/A

ministration of your own was ours". This seems to be a marvellous summation of Lowry's richly errant life, among Mexican dives and Canadian shacks and all the other "lowly cottages" which he chose in preference to the comfortable mansions of his hirth and class.

Out of touch at the typewriter

Geoff Dyer finds signs of stiffness in a tour of tactile pleasures

Touch by Gabriel Jusipovici, Yale University Press, £19.95

the Jagnar Sun, his proposed these paintings of extreme tembook on the five senses. Could Gabriel Josipovici's "very perThe most re sonal book" help make good this begins with Josipovici considering is exactly how one feels when lack? It felt promising. That a wide range of material - Chaplin, Chardin, Chaucer - could be touched on in relatively few pages (150) suggested that this essay might well display the qualities associated with the master: tactility of ideas, the ability to render
the cerebral as sensation, and strength: "a pnint played seemed is that photo of his grandparents, he
notes their "slight stiffness" before associated with the master: tactilfeeling as thought.

Such hopes do not persist long, but there are some nice touches;

•

what it means to have "a good touch" at sport. The terrible thing about tennis, he observes, is the way that errors haunt you -hut by dwelling on these missed chances

talo Calvino didn't get round to Bride," a section on Chardin that Borg-like one in which "you are writing about touch in *Under* makes one see just how weird are both utterly relaxed and utterly the Jaguar Sun. his proposed these paintings of extreme temoral suspense. this might appear contradictnry hut Josipovici is adamant that this swimming, running or "writing

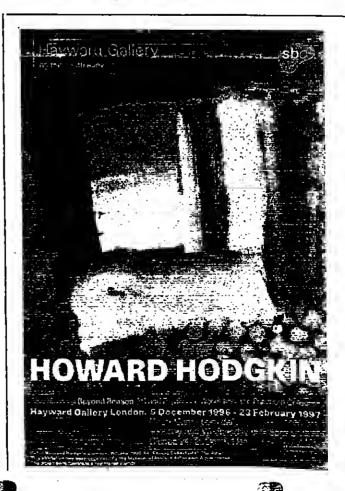
And with that - precisely hecause he is so right - he huhhles himself. For Josipovici's distinyou risk that "dread tightening of guishing characteristic as a writer to be over and furgotten as soon the camera, but they are supple as as it was dune, leaving him totally free to concentrate on the next son. His prose is not stiff, it's petbut there are some nice touches; an informative history of the pil-grimage as "a journey into the experience of distance itself": a touching comparision of a photograph of the author's grandparents with Rembrandt's "The Jewish" free to concentrate on the next one. His prose is not stiff, it's perfified. Even in his more relaxed moments he lacks what he terms should have given up the game and ended up wrecking his knee. He then took up Aikidn where he learned that the ideal state is the with Rembrandt's "The Jewish" free to concentrate on the next one. His prose is not stiff, it's perfified. Even in his more relaxed moments he lacks what he terms should have given up the game "kinetic melody." Compared with an insight to its limits and not be deflected either by laziness or swimming in Algeria, Josipovici's insights with Rembrandt's "The Jewish" free to concentrate on the next one. His prose is not stiff, it's perfified. Even in his more relaxed moments he lacks what he terms should have given up the game "kinetic melody." Compared with an insight to its limits and not be deflected either by laziness or conventional wisdom." That's as meditation on the pleasure of motion from the observes at one point, is "nothing more than the ability to push an insight to its limits and not be deflected either by laziness or conventional wisdom." That's as meditation on the pleasure of motion from the observes at one point, is "nothing more than the ability to push an insight to its limits and not be deflected either by laziness or conventional wisdom." That's as meditation on the pleasure of motion from the observes at one point, is "nothing more than the ability to push an insight to its limits and not be deflected either by laziness or conventional wisdom." That's as meditation on the pleasure of motion from the observes at one point, is "nothing more than the ability to push and insight to its limits and not be deflected either by laziness or conventional wisdom."

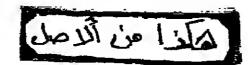
doing so in Egypt is chlorinated, are far too limited and are not wheezing. His account of walking on the South Downs ("when there is nnly a mild breeze blowing. when there is springy turf under

foot") is similarly stifling. There is a pompous edge, too, to much of of the commentary, signalled by his fondness for the all-knowing "of course" this is that Josipovici is an acadeof the lecture hall is never far away. It is amazing that so much time in so short a book is spent holding furth to students. Genius,

pushed anything like far enough to qualify.

In a way common among devotees of ossified experimentalism, he is also deeply conventional. He is one of those writers for whom the act of writing reaches an apotheosis of purity only when he types out the sentence, "I am ("Mnrandi of course is the great writing." On this occasion – after exception"). Part of the reason for a hit of verbal foreplay in the Prologue - he holds out until the mic, and the pipe-smoke staleness penultimate chapter before succumhing to what might be termed the petite mort de l'ecriture: "Over my notebook I sit hunched up. Over my typewriter, a little more upright. My hand moves over the





Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

The Day Before Yesterday: Five Easter 1081 to 29th May 1453) Million Years of Human History by Colin Tudge (Pimlico, £9.99) Frightening and fascinating in equal measure, this beautifully written mix of eco-history and geopolitics argues that our leaders should be taking a very long view of the future of our environment - indeed, that one million years is not an unreasonable unit of political time. It also shows how swiftly and irreversibly global change can take effect, pointing out that if CFCs had been invented in the laissez-faire epoch of Victorian industrialism, the end of the world would today be unquestionably nigh.

Dreams of Love and Modest Glory by Joan Lingard (Mandarin, £6.99) Big historical novel, taking in the Russian Revolution, two world wars and the collapse of Communism. It opens in 1913 with the double wedding of twin sisters from Aberdeen. One marries a tsarist count, the other a Latvian intellectual. and their love stories open out into a family saga, marked by secrets and lies, spanning three generations. This is a good, effortless read, instantly involving and unpretentious.

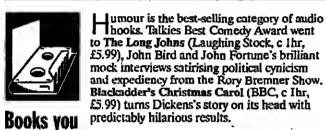
Byzantium: The Decline and Fall by John Julius Norwich (Penguin, £9.99) Anyone seeking a reading project this Christmas will not do better than Lord Norwich's acclaimed trilogy about Byzantium. This dazzling conclusion (from

listen to

maintains the same scorching pace and penchant for intriguing detail as the first two volumes (Byzantium: the Early Centuries and Byzantium: The Apogee republished at £9.99 each).

The People of Providence by Tony Parker (Eland, £9.99) A sequence of 49 in-depth interviews from a down-at-heel London housing estate may seem an unusual choice by a publisher who specialises in travel books. But this is an extraordinary work. Parker, who died this year, spent five years on the project. First published in 1983, it merits comparison with Mayhew's London Labour and the London Poor for depth and clear-eyed

The Plastic Tomatn Cutter by Michael Curtin (Fourth Estate, £6.99) In alternate chapters, two narrators describe how the Sixties transformed a small Irish community. One is Mr Yendall, the martinet of a fusty gents' outfitters. The other is Tim Harding, an over-educated snooker champ who ekes a living out of Fagend, his oneman agency for the treatment of nicotine addicts. Yendall's world is turned upside-down by long-haired pop groups and the disappearance of the halfcrown. Harding has a more serious problem: consanguinity. He falls for a beauty who turns out to be his sister. Curtin's inventive, beguiling imbroglio is a delight from start to finish.



Christina Hardyment

Powers of intelligence

Donald Cameron Watt welcomes a new generation of spy-watchers

n six new books on spying and the gathering of intelligence there are no real duds, despite the efforts of the publishers to misrepresent Leslie Collitt's hiog-raphy of Marcus Wolf, Spymaster. the real life of Karla his moles and the East German Secret Police (Rohson £16.95). In fact, Wolf headed the GDR's Foreign Intelligence Service, not its secet police. Among the others, Bradley Smith's Sharing Secrets with Stalin (University of Kansas Press, £27.95) is outstanding: a dyed-in-the-wool professional study of the intelligence aspects of the uneasy cooperation between the Big Three against Hitler. The rest include one hiography; one fascinating account of a uniformed British intelligence-gathering agency, now defunct, and three different studies of other British agencies: the Secret Intelligence Service, the Govern-ment Codes and Ciphers Service and the Security Service, now acknowledged - rather than defined - by Act of Parliament.

It would be nice to think that all this marks the end of the persistent hreach of the Official Secrets Act by a handful of writers echoing the whinges of disaffected anonymous secret servants, which has for so long passed as the record of British intelligence. A vain hope, I fear. But after Mark Urban's impressive catalogue of the great and the good among his informants in UK Eyes Alpha (Faher, £16.99), Michael Smith's trawling of the Public Record Office, New Cloak, Old Dagger (Gollancz; £20) and Michael Herman's serious, officially encouraged, efforts to provide the intelligence services with a theoretical underpinning, Intelligence Power in Peace and War (Cam-hridge, £50, £16.95), the whinge-echoers should he the more easily

Bradley Smith's previous study of Anglo-American wartime intelligence co-operation has already made the continuation of that cooperation a cliché of studies of the "Special Relationship". His gift for disinterring from the public records in London and Washingtoo what the censors fondly helieve to lie



Marcus Wolf (centre, between his father and brother, Friedrich): "East German desk warrior"

sources; hut its revelations of how the professional intelligencers of the Big Three coped with the conflict hetween their ideological suspicions of each other and their need for victory, and how the degree of exchange fluctuated as the military successes of each enhanced their standing in the eyes of their oppo-sites, makes this a yardstick for the closeness of the East-West alliance. The British came off very badly. Smith's demonstration that even

makes nonsense of the contention that Hiroshima was the first shot in the Cold War.

In Beyond the Front Line (HarperCollins, £20), Tony Geraghty - ex-para and specialist in SAS derring-do - writes of Brixmis, the former British Military Liaisoo Group with Soviet forces in East Germany. Their concentration on Soviet troop movements and military installations led to violent,

repositories is legendary. Sharing supplying the Russians with top- Serving only two-year tours of duty, Secrets with Stalin lacks Soviet level military intelligence on Japan they were bold, enterprising and they were bold, enterprising and unconventional. They also served the cause of peace by allaying fears of Soviet military build-ups and

surprise attacks. Leslie Collitt's title is an uneccessary oonsense. Unlike Karla, Smiley's opponent in Le Carré's televised trilogy, Marcus Wolf was an East German desk warrior, Moscow-trained and Moscow-appointed to head East German foreign intelligence. Collitt's sources are Stasi

seduced their way into the heart of West German politics. Collitt's study is the most comprehensive so far

available in English.
The journalists Mark Urban and Michael Smith complement each other. Urban's UK Eyes Alpha is compulsive reading on the Whitehall compulsive reading on the Whitehall in-fighting between the secret services and Mrs Thatcher's mania for control. In New Linat, Old Dagger, Smith is particularly good on Neithern Ireland. Between them they lay many of the myths perpetuated by the literary buckets that catch dissident leaks. Afteionados will need, to read both. Smith weakens his own solid research with some very dodgy solid research with some very dodgy historical sources, and Urban appar-ently believes his sources told him everything - a dangerous ploy in writing intelligence history. He has also talked to too many ex-CIA US nationalists whose Who-needs-youold-boy Anglophobia has made him overly pessimistic about the future.

Common to these approaches is an inability to distinguish between military and political intelligence about other countries. By contrast with the other great powers in the first half of this century, Britain concentrated on the former as well as the latter. It made the security agencies arms of the Foreign Office, not the forces or the police. This raises the question of how much secret intelligence really counts in the overall political assessment of the external world.

It is to this that Michael Herman (among much else) directs himself. His indispensable *Intelligence Power* in Peace and War is based on the widest of reading, which he sum marises with skill and clarity. What is available, however, is largely generated by American views of the US-Soviet confrontation. None of this is very helpful to the adaptation of intelligence work to the problems of a world still full of threats to Britam's interests. As our effective power dwindles, the oeed for reliable assessment and for political and public confidence in it increases. Secret intelligence may only constitute ten per cent of the total picture ten per cent of the time, as a hardhitten ex-diplomat recently said. potentially lethal, confrontations, files and Wolf himself. Under him. But its oeglect will cost Britain fathom-deep in their most secret after Hiroshima, the US west on with Soviet or GDR security forces. East German intelligence agents treasure, let alone lives.



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A slave to liberal passions

Godfrey Hodgson dethrones a Founding Father

The Long Affair: Thomas Jefferson and the French Revolution by Conor Cruise O'Brien, Sinclair-Stevenson, £25

hree monuments dominate the Mall in Washington, celebrating the trinity of the American civil religion. A tall obelisk commemorates George Washington, father of American independence. A porticoed temple celebrates Lincoln, the renewer of the covenant. And a dome, reflected in the Tidal Basin, glorifies Thomas Jefferson, near-holy spirit of the American ideology.

Inside the Jefferson memorial, a number of texts were inscribed, including three about slavery: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever. and slave is despotism. Nothing is more certainly written in the hook of fate than that these people are to be free."

The last sentence, taken from Jefferson's Autobiography, is incomplete. It continues, as Conor Cruise O'Brien points out, to state that "Nor is it less certain that the two races, equally free, cannot live in the same government. Native habit, opinion has drawn indelible lines of distinction between them."

The suppression of the second half is only a detail in the long campaign to conceal the awkward fact that the Imperishable author of the ringing declaration that all men were created equal was not only a slave-owner hut also a racist.

Nor can this he hrushed aside with the defence that he only reflected the prejudices of his time. George Washingion did oot share Jefferson's racism. Jefferson believed, as Washington did not, that there was oo future for hlack people in the United States and he therefore advocated that freed slaves should be sent "back where they came from", in the phrase beloved of modern British racists.

The evideoce O'Brien deploys has been painstakingly accumulated by a whole younger generation of American historians. It includes



Thomas Jefferson: "hypocritical"

HULTON GETTY the fact that Jefferson tried to

write into the laws of Virginia two proposals that were too strong even for his fellowslave-owners. One would have made it illegal for free Negroes to enter the state, or to stay there once freed. The other would have removed from "the protection of the laws" any white woman who bore a hlack man's child: an invitation to lynching.

Thanks to earlier southern historians, it is widely helieved that Jefferson, although a slave-owner, wanted to aholish slavery. He did condemn slavery, and no doubt he hated it, if only hecause of the contradiction hetween his ideology of liberty and the reality of his life. But he went to great lengths to recapture and punish his OWD runaways.

Unlike Washington, he did not free his own slaves in his will with the exception of four who were probably his own children. O'Brien accepts that we shall oot know for certain whether Jefferson was the father of Beverley, Harriet, Madison and Eston Hemines, the children of his servant Sally Hemings, until DNA testing has been carried out oo their remains. The guardians of the Jefferson asked, that we hear the loud-

on the tale that Sally was Jefferson's mistress. But what is not in doubt is that Sally was the half-sister of Jefferson's own wife, daughter of a liaison between Martha Jefferson's father and a slave.

It is not the chief purpose of O'Brien's book to portray Jefferson as a racist or a hypocrite. Its theme is his role as the principal champion in America of the French Revolution. Although generations of Jeffersonians have portrayed their hero as a pillar of an American democratic tradition far removed from the ferocity of Robespierre, O'Brien notes that Jefferson continued to defend the atrocities in France. After the king's execution, Jefferson as Secretary of State wrote to his charge d'affaires in Paris that were there hut an Adam and an Eve left in every country, and left free, it would be better than as it now is".

Not until long after the Terror did Jefferson condemn the Revolution. And then, suggests O'Brien, one significant factor was Robespierre's proposal, in response to the slave rebellion in Haiti, to emancipate the slaves in all French and British colonies.

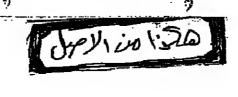
"How is it", Dr Johnson cult have always poured scorn est yelps for liberty from the

drivers of negroes?" The remark has usually been dismissed as a cheap shot from a resentful Tory. But O'Brien suggests there may indeed have been a connection. between the cult of Liberty in Virginia and slavery. Liberty to white Virginians included

the liberty to own slaves. Nothing can now change the fact, he believes, that the US will increasingly be a multi-racial society. The mainstream will therefore soon eject Jefferson from the American trinity. He will be left to that minority who defend white supremacy and States' Rights. Both suspects in the Oklahoma City bombing claimed him as an inspiration. Timothy: McVeigh, when arrested, was wearing a T-shirt inscribed "The tree of liberty must he refreshed from time to time with the

hlood of patriots and tyrants." The traditional view of Jefferson is that he was a passionate advocate of liberty for all trapped in the position of owning slaves. O'Brien brings to Jefferson his suspicion of the harm done by revolution-ary thetoric in heland and his sympathy for Edmund Burke's negative view of the French Revolution. Making allowance for that, he has put the torch of his persuasive gifts to the evidence heaped up by revisionist historians. Together they have scorched the marble statesman of the Tidal Basin. The questions about Jefferson's ideological legacy raise questions about the nature of US civil religioo - and the extent to which it extends its offer of equality to those who are not white North Americans.

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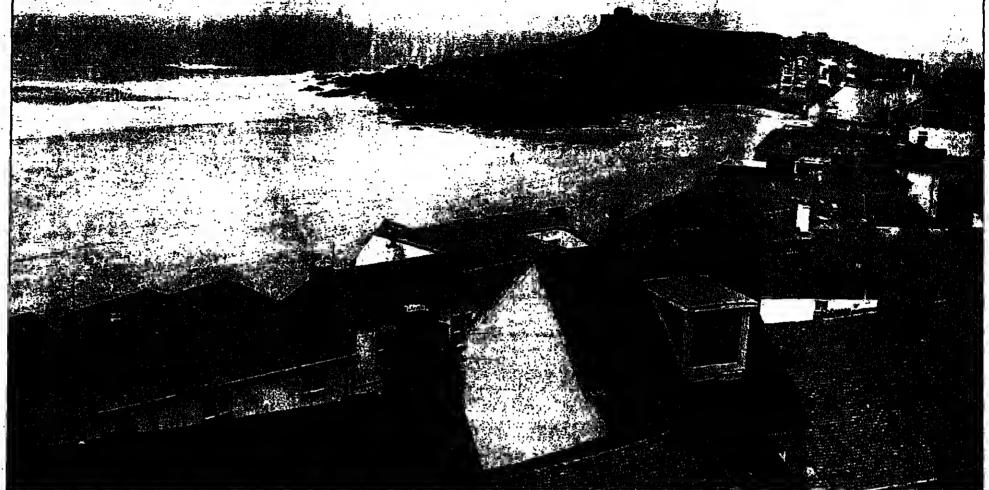
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How many were in St Ives?

Harriet O'Brien, Travel Writer of the Year,

enjoys the quiet of



Cornwall out of season The view from the Tate Gallery café of Porthmeor beach, one of the windiest and most dramatic parts of St Ives

PHOTOGRAPH: HARRIET O'BRIE

December it won't he only because of them. Big seas, hig winds, a luminous quality of light, and art - living, as well as hung oo walls - are all part of the equation. Forget sunshine, sandcastles and icecream oo the beach; Cornwall out of season is inspiring, exhibarating - and half

It was doubtless due to the lack of visitors that the pig was so pleased to see us. little harbour town from a sleepy fishing over the clifftops beyond St Ives last week. Emitting small squeats of delight, she arm of the modern art gallery in London. Squelched hastily across her muddy enclosure to greet us, and to be admired. Her pink snout whiffled against the wire fence as she presented her ears to be scratched. Great waves pounded the rocks below us, and she seemed to capture the spirit of the place: an open friendliness in total contrast to the wildness of the landscape and the elements.

At this time of year there is scope for the people (as well as the animals) of St Ives to stop and chat. An explanation from a shopkeeper about the finer points of Comish honey might meander gently oo to some considered advice as to where to see the most dramatic cliff scenery, then take a sharp right angle and develop into a discussion about local opinion of the Tate Gallery. This opened in St Ives in June 1993 and, rather than getting a pre-dicted 70,000 visitors a year, has been averaging 200,000. The Tate, understandably, is a popular topic. "Oh, it's been fairly good for husiness," the hooey man remarked in quiet understatement. "It attracts a steady stream of visitors eveo at times like this when St Ives would otherwise be pretty much closed down. And yes. most of us do like it. Very much. But then there are so many artists here anyway."

It was a local potter who made my pot: a tall earthenware vase, its glaze subtly

t was the pig that did it. And a pot. I couldn't help grandly thinking, of the yet wheo I go back to St Ives next works of Bernard Leach. It sat in a shop making everything seem like an exhibit. window aloogside pictures by resident painters, and little bits of knick-knackery: glass ornameots of cute cats, and quaint pottery figures. Like St Ives itself, which manages to cater for both a summer beach brigade and an influx of gallerygoers, there was something for everyone.
To see many of the paintings, ceram-

ics and sculptures that transformed the We came across her as we were walking village into a significant art centre, you go to the Tate. This is not simply an ersatz aot works, have strong associations with the area: ceramics by Bernard Leach and his Japanese colleague Shoji Hamada; wonderfully lit sculpture by Barbara Hepworth; and, of course, works by Ben Nicholson, Christopher Wood and Alfred Wallis. The oow-legeodary meeting between Nicholson, Wood and Wallis is considered to have been the turningpoint in the artistic fortunes of St Ives. (What, ooc wonders, did old sailor Wallis make of Nicholsoo and Wood when, oo that famous visit to St Ives in August 1928, the young artists walked straight into his home, exclaiming about Wallis's oaive paintings, having seen them by chance through the open door?) A special exhibition of Wood's works from 1923 to 1930 - when the artist was, hizarrely, killed by a train in Salisbury - is currently on display. Yet there's more to the Tate than the art oo show. For a start, it's got ooe of the best cafés in town. Sipping a cappuccino from the vantage point here, you look down over the steep, cobbled alleyways of St Ives, and gaze over the higgledy-piggledy mix of roofs. The building, in fact, holds as many surprises as the exhibits. Set opposite Porthmeor Beach, one of the windlest parts of the little town, it absorbs much shot through with the mellow colours of the mesmerising play of light from the the cliffs in changing light. Reminisceot, sea sceoery. Such reflections have the

making everything seem like an exhibit, down to the cakes in the café and the other visitors. And, despite the quality of the art on the walls and in glass cases, you can't help feeling that one of the finest shows in the Tate is the view from the enormous picture window in the Loog Gallery, which frames the beach scene

heyood. The sea and wind were in fine form oo the day we were there. From the warmth of the gallery we watched a group of surfers scooting over the waves and enjoying some of the best (albeit chilly) conditions of the sport. A kite flier, though, provided the most spectacular performance. He caught the wind superbly. Gripping his strings tightly, he was sent skidding across the sand as his canopy leapt and ducked excitedly. Occasionally the force of it all took him right off the ground. It was as if he was lifted up by his

Such displays of energy are a far cry from the small museum of Barbara Hepworth's sculpture, set in the artist's former home, where she died in a fire in her studio in 1975. There's an appropriately static quality here, as if time stopped then. In the little garden, also created by Hepworth, you walk among large hronzes of differing shapes at every angle, sitting stoically alongside exotic plants and foliage. A small path leads to her workshop; here smocks hang by the door and large blocks

of stone still wait to be transformed. You start to understand why Hepworth created her strange images when you walk aloog the cliffs west of St Ives. The area just around from Land's End is particularly rich in extraordinary formations of granite boulders that seem impos-sibly perched above sheer drops. To get there you have to walk through the Land's End complex. From the promotiooal literature and several critical reports, I had expected this would be something of a theme park gnomery. And and as you look out over the Atlantic

Cornish essentials

What to see: The Tate (01736 796226) is open 11am-5pm Tuesday-Sunday. Adults £3, concessions £1.50, under 16s free when accompanied by an adult. The Christopher Wood exhibition runs until 20 April 1997, Barbara Hepworth's house 1736 796226) at the same time as the Tate. Adults £2, concessions £1.50, under-16s free when accompanied by an adult. Joint ticket with the Tate

Land's End is open daily from 10am until sunset (01736 871501). Several shops and a few attractions - the Last Labyrinth, the Spirit of Cornwall, and Greeh Farm - are open during the winter. Entrance to the complex and the

shows : adults £3 (including car parking), children £1, car parking only, £2.
Where to shop: The Wills
Lane Gallery on Wills Lane (01736 796297) has an impressive collection for serious buyers. The New Craftsman, 24 Fore Street (01736 795652), has a more eclectic mix of good paintings and pottery. Who to ask: The St Ives tourist office (01736

supply details of huses to Land's End and other places heyond town. Where to stay: St Ives Is saturated with B&Bs. For details of those remaining open during the winter, contact the local tourist office (see ahove). Harriet O'Brien pald £18 per night at the Grey Mullet Guest House, 2 .

796297). The staff can

English

Bunkers Hill, in the centre of the town (01735 796635): Where to eat: Many restaurants are closed during the winter, but the Sloop Inn ~ dating from

1312 - on the harhour serves locally caught fish and other dishes provided you order before 8.30pm. Excellent fresh fish is also on offer at Peppers Pizzeria, 22 Fore Street.

certainly the idea of paying an entrance fee to stand on a small slice of land that is neither the most southerly, nor the most westerly point in the British mainland seemed absurd (the real extremities being, respectively, Lizard Point and either Ardoamurchan Point or Meist in Skye depending on whether you think the new Skye bridge constitutes a sufficient link to the mainland). However, once you arrive at Land's End you can see what all the fuss is about. The scenery is spectacular

between you and America.

The complex itself, offering video shows about the area, shopping opportunities and a range of other activities, may become uppleasantly crowded in the summer, but in December it is half closed and more or less deserted. Very pleasant it was, too. And then there was the matter of the pig. She belonged to Greeb able, the kitsch is optional.

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Ocean from the tip of this odd arm of England, you can't help feeling overawed tractions". The workshops here were shut tractions". The workshops here were shut by the thought that only a few specks of for the winter, but a few animals remained islands - the Scillies and the Azores - lie on show, and all of them - goats, pig, teenage kittens and ducks - behaved as if they had been to charm school.

Back in St Ives it might have been tempting to buy a little pottery image of a pig as a memento to take home, alone with my pot. But at this time of year in Cornwall, while the great gusts of fresh air and the natural artistry are unavoid-

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Frequent flyer? Prepare for delays

or the past year I have been tracking assiduously the punctuality of every flight I have taken. This may strike you as a singularly sad way in spend one's time, but the results confirm what many frequent travellers suspect that the chances are more likely than not that your flight will be delayed. Of neurly 50 flights, two-thirds were delayed by anything from five minutes to three

hnurs. The most consistently tardy carrier is British Airways, with an average delay of 20 minutes, but this reflects the fact that I have used it more than any other - and that BA has to cope with the two crowded home bases of Heathrow and Garwick.

The survey begins with a 45-minute delay on a BA flight from Heathrow to Harare (ascribed to "missing passengers") and ends with a 15-minute late Chicago to Heathrow hop on American Airlines ("a

few last-minute hags"). In between, explanations for delays have ranged from the catch-all "operational



difficulties" to the hardly more informative cause given hiuntly by a Delta pilot betweeo Atlanta and Orlando: "weather".

In some ways it has been a good year: unlike the last couple, all the planes have landed at roughly the right airport on approximately the right day. There was just one aborted landing (on Cyprus Turkish Airlioes at Antalya) and one curtailed take-off (a Caledonian Airways TriStar from

Manchester to Mombasa). This flight turned out to he the most delayed of all, reaching Keoya three bours late. But this was in a summer when some passengers experienced delays of more than two

days - my colleague Wendy Berliner spent 53 bours in Orlando failing to travel with Airtours International to Gatwick. And whenever you, like me, are tempted to grumble about a modest delay, it is well worth remembering that we are extraordinarily privileged to he able to undertake relatively fast, relatively comfortable travel to the ends of the earth for

implausibly low fares. Some people, of course, are more privileged than others - notably those in the premium cabin. I am sorry to report that the "upgrade tie" that I carry habitually, and put on just before check-in, in the hope of a seat in business class, has worked just once.

ir 2000 does not appear in my survey, but it would feature high in any list of soco-tobe-outdated names. हर्म Fortunately, readers have responded generously in their suggestions for a new name for the charter carrier to take it into the w millennium. A convoy of suggestions

as to what the airline could call itself once the year 2000 is over has been touching down over the past fortnight. Mr E Wright of Fleetwood recommends Millenair, while Mike Marshall of Bromsgrove has a came that will he valid for just 12 months - Air in

Peter Mair of Londoo ootes that Air 2000 offers tall people extra legroom, and offers "Air 2001 - a Leg Space Odyssey". Mr Mair also says that another charter airline, Monarch. will book seats with extra space to tall travellers without the need to supply a doctor's letter, as required by Air 2000. "To achieve this, as soon as one is booked oo a Monarch flight, phone 01582 ..."

The responsibility for this number being incomplete is mine, not Mr Mair's. When I tried the oumber he suggested, the airline confirmed that it will do its best to assign an emergency exit row to tall travellers but refused me permission to publish the number you need to call to request assistance. It seems that

Monarch provides a useful service, but prefers its customers oot to know

Meanwhile, perhaps Air 2000 will grant an upgrade, or at least extra legroom, to those whose suggestions appear above.

s MPs disperse from Westminster for the last Christmas holiday of this parliament, some of them will he looking forward to foreign visits as part of a Commons select committee.

Writing in Travel Weekly, the Lahour MP Nigel Griffiths reveals that members of the Defence Select Committee have bagged Ankara, Athens, Brussels, Gibraltar, Naples, New York, Paris and Washingtoo DC. They did rather hetter than the Catering Committee: "Its one exotic trip consisted of a visit to British Rail's oohoard services training school in Eustoo". One committee member who mis-heard news of the impending trip speot some time fondly anticipating a trip to Houston, Texas.

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So who will sponsor the snow?

Stephen Wood on the arcane and inventive system that enriches - and cheapens - skiing

ccording to a survey of high carners in sport, published last week by Total Sport magazine, the racing driver Damon Hill was paid £7m this year. Anyone who has watched Grands Prix on televisioo will have an idea where that sort of money comes from. This year, his car was a 200mph hillboard for Rothmans cigarettes and Sanyo audio, among other products; previously, it has sold Labatt's beer, Canon caracras and Sega video games.

Motor racing is one of those sports that sponsors love. Unlike, say, World Cup foot-hall, where the advertising hoardings are just part of the background scenery, Grand Prix TV coverage focuses permanently on the promotional vehicles themselves, beaming sponsors' logos into hundreds of millions of homes around the world.

Why am I telling you all this in a skiing column? Because World Cup ski racing offers similar sponsorship poteotial. But if you watch BBC2's Ski Sunday, which returns for a new season at 5.10pm tomorrow, you will struggle to see the sort of big brand names that adom racing cars. There is plenty to read on the competitors' ski suits, skis and poles, even their goggle straps. (Ignore the racing bibs, which belong to the event sponsors.) But all the names, with few exceptions, are those of skiwear and ski equipment man-ufacturers. Ski racing is still run in the traditional way, by oational skiing federations, with rules designed to prevent nooski-industry sponsors from cheapening,

and enriching, the sport.
When Martin Bell retired last year, he was the most successful British men's skier of recent times. But in his fioal two years of competition, when the British team was poorly sponsored, he didn't command a hig salary: he made a loss. Like the rest of us. he paid to go skiing. So at the age of 31, he took his first nine-to-five job, as ski consultant to the Daily Mail Ski Magazine, to pay off his debts. The sponsorship rules ensure that even the top racers, says Bell, earn sums which are paltry in comparison with other sports: he doubts that Albert Tomba - a winner of Olympic golds, World Championships and World Cups and a big star in Italy - makes more than a million dollars a year.

The "Rules and Precisions" of the



Albert Tomba: big in Italy, but a low earner compared to other sports stars

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International Ski Federation (FIS) on as the case of the ski-wax maker which commercial markings comprise a long list of "doo'ts", and a dense specification of sites and measurements for permitted displays. The rules proceed from the assumption that manufacturers should be allowed the brand name must go on the equipment itself has had curious consequeoces - such item - but a goggle strap is very visible on

went into the goggle business.

Martin Bell explains: "Briko was a skiwax company which supplied the Italian team. They got some good results with the wax - but Briko couldn't get much publicity to draw attention to the equipment they have supplied to competitors. The fact that age gets on TV exposure, "so Briko started making goggles. They are a fairly cheap

sibility of, say, Coca-Cola having a few pairs of goggles made up for competitors with its logo oo the strap - but the International Ski Federation's article 211.23 closed that loophole by requiring that the straps be "as on products sold to the public".

TV". This seemed to opeo up the pos-ski federations have done sponsorship deals. The British Ski Federadon (BSF) has allowed its team members to have a "personal headband sponsor". Its illustration specifies "one logo, max size 50 sq cm, positioned at froot, above oational n products sold to the public".

The Federation does, bowever, permit team sponsor, the BSF has also released tightly cootrolled display of noo-ski- to the skiers its "Badge 4" site on the ski industry brand names, where the national outfit, also of 50 sq cm. Unfortunately,

only ooe, Martin Bell's younger brother Graham, has found a sponsor. If you see his name on the caption on Ski Sunday tomorrow you may also, says the BSF's Fiona McLeao, be able to make out the oames of Nielson Holidays (personal headband sponsor) and Paul Mitchell hair ask you

care products (Badge 4).

Later in the Ski Sunday season you could also see the name of a Slovenian kitcheo supplier flying across the screen. A curious wrinkle in the FIS rules - of which the Slovenian national team, among others, has taken full advantage -permits Nordic ski-jumpers to carry the names of non-ski industry sponsors oo their skis.

Why do competitive skiers still allow nacional federations and notional amateur status to restrict their earnings? Other sports, notably golf and tennis, have broken free of such controls, and World Cap skiing, with its extensive TV coverage and star names (on the Contineot, if not in Britain), clearly has the potential to do the same. "I often wonder why it hasn't happened, and I can't put my finger on it," says Martin Bell. "But top skiers tend to be woung and often come from small mounts." young, and often come from small mountain villages. So they don't tend to be wise in the ways of the world. Also, they come from diverse cultures and speak different languages, which makes it difficult for them to band together.

The normal process of revolution against sporting authorities involves the creadoo of a rival, more commercially oriented circuit. There were rumours that this might happen in the mid-Eighties; but, says Bell, "the racers were sort of bought off by the FIS, when it introduced personal headband sponsorship. And anyway, the competitive skiing season is too short to support two circuits: the old, and a new, breakaway rival. It lasts only from the end of November to the end of March, so there just aren't eoough weekends available. And during peak holiday times, the resints aren't too keen to bost eveots".

If some old sportiog traditions live on, however, others fade away. You still won't see big-money sponsors' logos on Ski Sunday, but neither will you hear the voice of the commentator David Vine. After 19 years on the programme, he bas retired. It won't be the same without him chanting his mantra about the tuck position.

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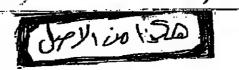
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In Brno, they now ask your opinion ...

Max Wooldridge revisits the Czechs' second city

ou know that Skoda in English means 'a pity'?" my translator friend Romana inquired over a dinner of smazeny syr (fried cheese in hread-

It was news to me, but it made sense of an incident I had seen earlier while I was walking to Liherty Square (Namesti Svobody), Brno's main square. A delivery van bad driven into the back of a Skoda, knocking the car's humper off. The driver got ont, shrugged his shoulders and simply placed the fender in bis hoot, accepting the damage as inevitable. No insurance details were exchanged; both drivers just shook hands and departed.

If Prague is the Czech Republic's favourite child, Brno (pronounced brr-no, like a reaction to a chilly wind - not Bruno as in boxer Frank) is its silent cousin. The city's 650th anniversary in 1993 went largely unnoticed.

Despite the its location in the ceotre of Europe (balf way between Budapest and Prague, and close to both Bratislava and Vienna), little is known about the Czech Republic's second city other than that it is the birtbplace of the novelist Milan Kundera and the Bren gun. The Second World War machine gun was first manufactured in Brno, before production moved to Enfield.

When it comes to architecture, Brno beats Prague hands down, with its weird and wonderful "House of the Four Ninnies" (U Ctyr Mamlasu), in the triangular Liberty Square, built at the turn of the century by a rich Jewish industrialist. The "Ninnies" are four massive stone figures with agonised expressions who support the building on their shoulders.

I found more pained looks on the faces of Capuchin monks, whose remains are displayed in the crypt of Brno's 17th-century monastery, a real theatre of the macabre nearby in Namesti Kapucinske. They are joined by the bodies of local hurghers and noblemen, preserved by an iogenious ventilation system.

One of the monks was huried alive; en his coffin was oneged he was discovered lying in a different position to when he was faid to rest. (And look out for chandeliers made of human bones.)

The first time that I visited Brno was in November 1989, during the demon-strations that led to the Velvet Revolution. I joined thousands of students in Liberty Square; we anxiously stuffed newspapers down our backs in case the police heat us. It was then that I met Petr, a local English teacher. Now, he runs his own English language school and promotes classical music concerts for touring foreign orchestras. When we met again in a hotel lobby he was busy explaining to an American producer why his concert posters had been delayed: "The printers are not capitalist yet. They need two weeks."

Getting there There are no direct flights between the UK and Brno. The closest international gateway is Prague, which has daily services from Heathrow on British Airways (0345 222111), British Midland (0345 . 554554), or CSA Czech Aidines (0171-255 1898) – which also operates from Stansted. In descending order, the lowest return

descending order, the lowest recurrifares for each airline (including tax) are as follows, applicable for passengers travelling in January:

British Airways' lowest World
Offer fare of £199.90 must be booked by 18 December.

British Midland charges £180.90 for a ticket which must be booked

for a ticket, which must be booked at least a day before travelling.

CSA charges the same amount for travellers departing from Heathrow, but flights from Stansted come out. £15 cheaper, at £165.90.

A bus from Victoria coach station in London to Florenc bus station in Prague costs £95 return (including free soft drinks) and takes about 20 hours, through Kingscourt Express (0181-673 7500).

From Prague, a connecting bus or train to Brno takes around three hours and costs about £10 each

Staying there Rates quoted for the following hotels are for a night in a double room, including breakfast, Hotel Avion, Ceska 20 (00 42 5 42 21 50 16): £37 or £28 - the lower price is for rooms with a shower but no toilet. Hotel Pegas, Jakubska 4 (00 42 5 42 21 01 04): £40.

Hotel Slovan, Lidicka 23 (00 42 5

41 32 12 07): £36.

Further information Contact the Czech Centre, 95 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5RA (0171-291 9924). Open 9.30am-5pm from Monday to Friday. Nearest The tourist office in Bmo is located at Behousika 3, but its telephone number (00 42 5 42 21 10 89, extension 90) never seems to get an

Later, we dined at the U Pinkasu beer ball off Cesky, Brno's main shopping street. There were no tables free so we sat amongst cheerful Czechs, sipping glasses of golden beer and feasting on fattening food such as svickova (beef in cream sance) and knedliky (dumplings). On the next table, two middle-aged women with clashing bair tints refused to let two men share their table with them. I asked Petr what was going on. "They didn't like the way the men asked

if they could sit down," he explained.
Was Brno, I wondered, a city of
unpleasantly brusque people? I was
reassured to some extent when I learnt that the twisted spire above the Gothic portal of the 13th-century Old Town Hall (Stare Radnice) was not the result of vandalism by Lada louts. More like revenge wreaked by the 16th-century sculptor Anton Pilgram: when the coun-cil didn't pay him as much as he'd boped, he instructed his stone-cutters to bend the tallest spire. It remains twisted to this day, aptly located above the statue of justice.

Churches, it seems, are a focal point for local - and lasting - expression. At the top of St James Church in Jakubske Namesti is "Nehanha" (the shameless one), a manikin who exposes his bottom from the church tower's southern window. The manikin is believed to bave been built as an eloquent message to a rival church south of the city.

Perbaps its desired target was the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul on Petrov Hill, with imposing twin spires reminiscent of the Thunderbirds rocket. For the last 350 years, its bells have rung at midday an hour early. In 1645, a crafty bishop rang the cathedral bells for noon at 11am, after a Swedish General besieg-ing the city declared that he would leave if his troops hadn't captured the place by midday.

Other imagery abounds. Brno's best known attraction is the Brno Dragon, which hangs in the entrance of the town hall. But the legendary dragon, reputedly killed by a gallant knight after it had terrorised the city, is more likely to be a stuffed Amazonian alligator brought home by a oobleman. Also of the stuff of legeod is the Broo Wheel, said to have been made in 1636 by a cocksure carpenter 40km away in Lednice, southern Moravia. He chopped a tree down, made a wheel and rolled it to Brno all in one day. What a guy - but quite what he was trying to prove, oo one knows.

The place seemed full of impressive people. Over a lunch of bramborak labutnik (potato pancakes) in another beer hall. I sat oext to two elderly Czech ladies. Blame my circumspect English upbringing, but I rather expected them to drink something like a slivovice (plum hrandy) each. They were having none of it, preferring pints of dark beer.

Later, I watched two brewery workers spend half an hour delivering more than a bundred beer barrels. Perhaps the brewery had deregulated their quality control department: certainly the workers spent the next bour drinking large quantities before leaving. Little wonder, theu, that ooe of the first entries in my Czech phrasebook was a translation for be's absolutely smashed".

Another beerhall - the Two Rams (U Dvou Kozlu), located on the site of the former Communist party's regional headquarters, was so smoky that I almost to change money. Now they simply

All you had m do was to

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address in Cambridge. You

message added. With Ms O'Brien's birthday impending

on 25 October, the timing was ideal. "Happy birthday and

could have a personalised

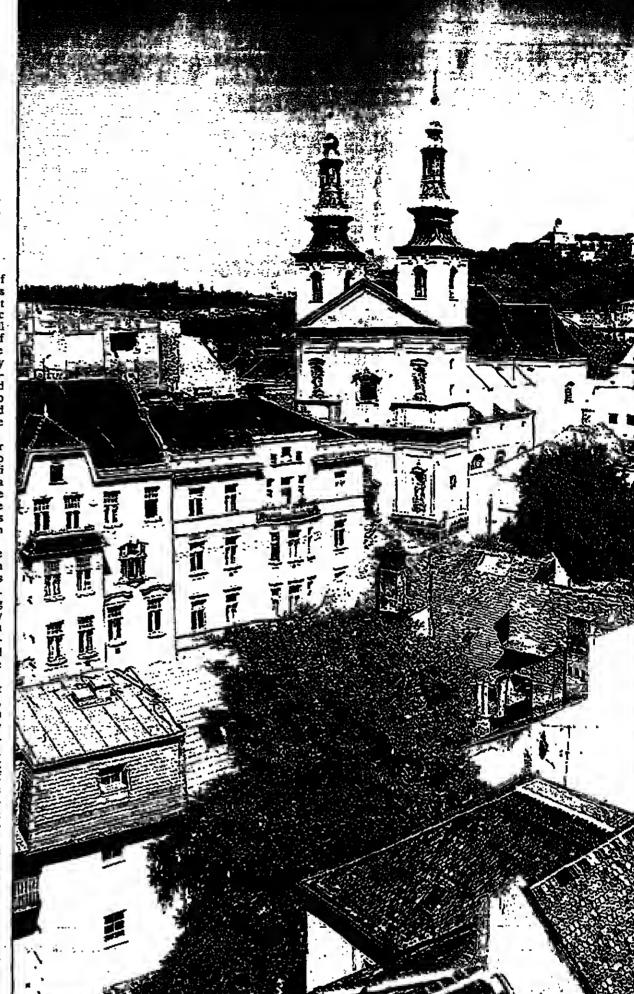
many happy returns," we

wrote, and with the self-

satisfaction of the prescient,

looked forward to another satisfied contributor.

collect a few first-class stamps



When it comes to architecture, Brno beats Prague hands down

needed a thermal imager to see anything. This is hardly surprising, when you realise that the Czechs have a popular, chainsmoking president and a brand of cigarettes called Start.

Seven years ago young Czechs, with or without cigarettes in band, had approached me in the streets and offered

Bratislava, was bursting with questions. Was it all right to be disillusioned with democracy so soon, be wanted to know. What did I think of the split with Slovakia? Did the Czech Republic lack confidence as a nation?

Communism bere may be pretty much

wanted my opinion. Pavel, a student I dead, but another of Brno's past landmet while I was waiting for a bus to

Described a student I dead, but another of Brno's past landlords survives – at least in a gastronomic incarnation. Bloated like a Habsburg lip, parek (bot sausages) sell from roadside stalls all over the city. The last time I stopped to buy one, it was served on a piece of cardboard with a dollop of mustard. Market forces mean that they now arrive on polystyrene plates.



something to declare

Trouble spots



The following places are at risk from bombings.

India: The Travel Advice Unit of the Foreign Office (0171-238 4503) advises against all travel to Jammu and Kashmir. There have been recent homb explosions in public places in Delhi (above) and on public transport in neighbouring areas. Reuter reports that 12 train passengers were killed and 37 iojured when a homb exploded on a train in Anibala. Police think it may be part of an escalation of violence before state assembly elections in Punjah, due by next Fehruary.

Corsica: a homb damaged a building owned by the regional authority for northern Corsica last week but caused no injuries. The device exploded outside the northern capital

Bastia, blowing out the windows of the building. It is the latest in a series of bombings, which have occurred mostly at night. by separatists seeking more autonomy from France for Corsica. Casualties are rare.

Ethiopia: A bomh in the Wabe Shabelle Hotel, Addis Ababa, in August killed one person and injured 11, including a European visitor. There have been explosions in other Ethiopian hotels. The Foreign Office advises vigilance at all times".

Central African Republic: Rebel soldiers in the capital, Bangui, have fired mortar bombs near the French embassy at the Sofitel hotel, where some loyalist government forces

are based - Reuter. Philippa Czemin

A likely story

"The cake will be delivered within 14 days" - Royal Mail promotion.

We like to keep our contributors sweet, especially those of the calibre of Harriet O'Brien (whose story on Cornwall appears on page nine). We also need to watch the budget. So the Royal Mail Send-a-Cake promotion, back in October, presented an ideal solution.

Bargain of the week

After Christmas and New Year, there is always a slump in demand for leisure air travel. In anticipatioo, Air UK (0345 666777) has brought out a range of cheap fares, both one-way and return, for travel from 6 January to 15 March. The best deals are between London and

Aherdeen or Inverness (£40 one way, £75 return, iocluding tax) and from Stansted to Florence and back (£54 single, £108.60 return). You must book 14 days in advance, but note that the usual 'Saturday night stay" rule does not apply - making these handy for husiness travellers, too.

Next Saturday in The Long Weekend

Winter tales: the poet Brian Patten paints a picture of midwinter Craków io a thousand.

Plus: sing-your-wayaround-the-world - how many naff travelrelated Christmas tunes can you identify?

The cake arrived on Monday of this week, over six weeks late. If the Royal Mail had shown the nous to change the message to "Merry Christmas" we could have

Except for one thing.

Look at the width of this column, then imagine a square cake of that dimension. That is the exact size of the bite-sized confection. Ms O'Brien was amused but not nourished.

forgiven the organisation.

Visitors' book

Posada Mirador, Chihuahua-Pacifico Railway, Mexico.

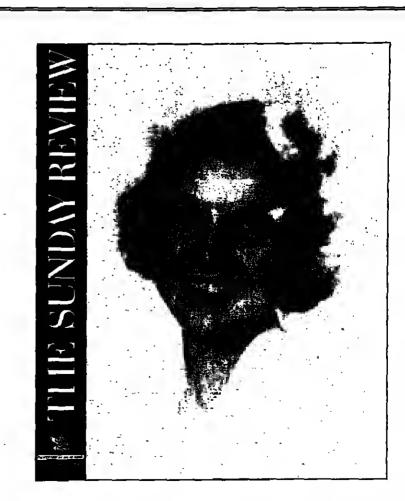
Awsome [sic]. Thrilling. Thanks so v much. Keith Thomson and Martha Krupp, Tucson, Arizona.

Wonderful, Wooderful. Wonderful place. Mary and Earl Morris, Portland, Oregon_

Vista Magnifico. Nydia and John Gletne, Tahoe City, Ca.

Too romantic for someone so alone. Alona Guerra, San Antonio, Texas.

Es simplemente un lugar marzvilloso, Betty Aguilar, Arocha, Nueva Rosita. Coahula:



E. suddenly appeared, wearing an ugly smile. He suggested they settle this matter by playing Russian roulette...' In what she expects to be her last major piece of published writing, Martha Gellhorn probes the mysteries of memory, and recaptures astonishing moments from her astonishing life

Plus: David Sylvester on the origins of Cubism; Andy Beckett on a thoroughly modern drifter, and the very best of the year's arts

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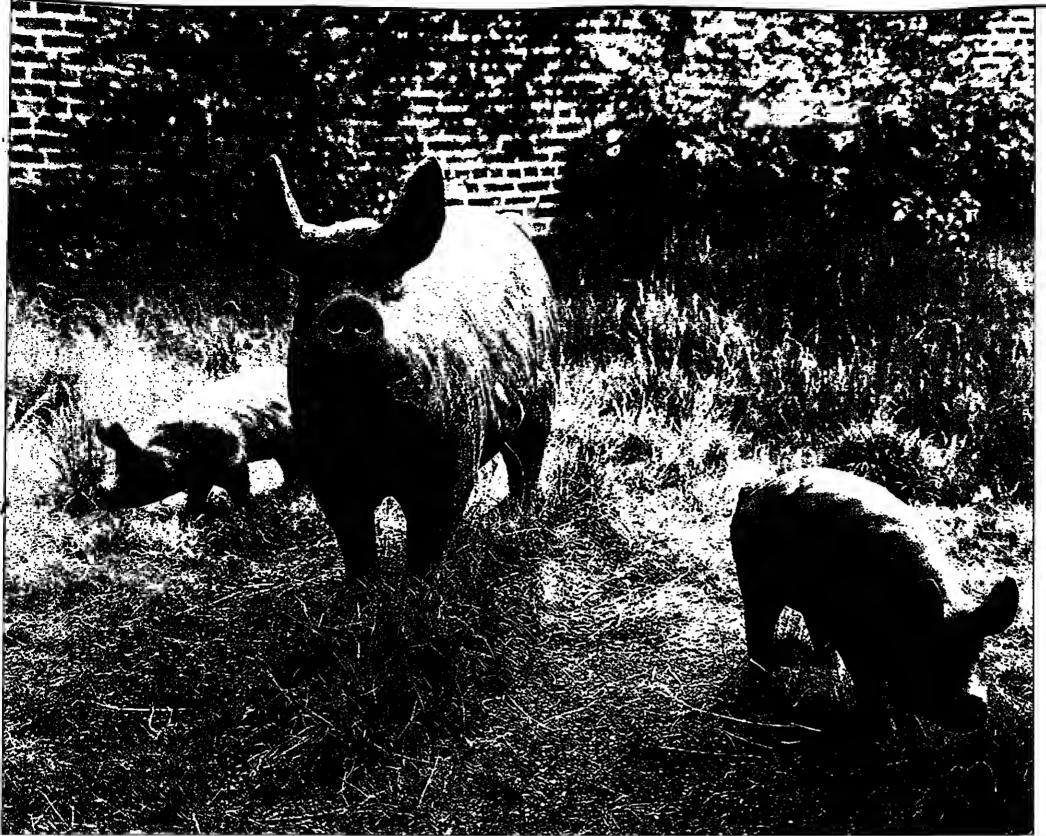


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Norton Priory: very much a living museum

Photograph: The Norton Priory Museum Trust

'It would be scary at night' Caroline Millar and her family saw how the monks lived at Norton Priory

shaven lawns and hi-tech structures of a Business Park. Your heart starts to sink. It doesn't recover much as you approach a low, modern building

stones for a long-gone priory. There's a hlack canon crouched over his missal. You hear monks chanting. Yes, this is a museum. But it's one that brings you very close to the people who lived and died on the land around you - the monks who were here for four hundred years, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The Bruoke family, who demolished the priory and built two fine houses, have now also gone.

Your footsteps echo as you walk through the Undercroft - part of the old priory that was used as a cellar. And then outside to the ruins - the Cloister Walk, the chapter house and the graves in the church.

You hear the bell tolling as you walk past the kitchens, to the herb garden and woodland beyond. There is an elegant drain from the monks' latrine. Georgian summer house and, hidden in

Crossing the bridge over the dual carriageway to the other part of the estate, the 20th century intrudes. But then you enter a swathe of ancient in tastefully landscaped surroundings.

Then you step into another world. You see a medieval stonemason bewing the winter, so the day ends in the old pear red berries. In the clearings you come the world with red berries. In the clearings you come and it went whack! orchard, with the trees outlined against a darkening sky.

The visitors

Caroline Millar, a freelance writer, went to Norton Priory Museum with her husband, Malcolm, a university lecturer, their son, Thomas, aged seven, and daughter, Claire, aged three.

Caroline: The museum presents the life model of the church being built. There's of the priory very clearly, and Thomas was fascinated. He especially loved the models of the priory as it was being built, and he was still young enough to ask the question, "What happened when they went to the loo?" We satisfied our curiosity later by tracing the path of the

watch carefully, as there are a couple of

steep drops. We saw rabbits, squirrels and birds in very sad. across work by living artists, a statue or maybe an abstract sculpture. Some of them reminded me of rusty old cars, but then I'm totally unartistic. I did like Coventina, the Celtic goddess of streams and wells, who crouched at the head of

Thomas: I didn't like walking all day because it made my legs hurt. I liked the scaffolding and ladders and the little people can climb up. There's stonemasons, and even a little bit of cement. I liked learning about the monks in the church and how they lived, and where they put their food.

The Undercroft would be a bit scary at night - you might think ghosts would

he sign for Norton Priory looks—the woods, a Victorian cottage where the imagine that the black canons still pace—did make a noise it would echo. There's—from the land, and later went back to the incongruous, surrounded by the—ladies and gentlemen used to take tea.—the cloisters. Not easily spooked, Claire—a very old chair in the Undercroft, and—land. It's an interlinking of nature and climbed over the ruins. We had to very old wood in the fireplace. In one of the graves there is a daddy, and then there were three babies. I think that's

Claire: The skeleton looks a hit scary to me. It's happy because I can see its mouth laughing. He's got no clothes on. He was once a people and then the people died.

I liked the bricks to play with because like to climb on them. The summerhouse looks nice. I can play with the leaves in it, sweeping the leaves up with a brush. Murumy and Daddy say "come on", and I stay because I like to.

Malcolm: A still winter day was a good time to come - it's quiet and very atmospheric here. You see the way life has ebbed and flowed in this place.

I think the sculptures are to show the continuity between the land and man-On a misty afternoon, it's easy to come out of the bits in the wall. If they made objects. The priory stones came lities. Contact the museum for details.

man, death and rebirth.

Norton Priory, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire (01928 569895) Location: From M56 take Junction 11 for

Warrington and follow signs for Norton Priory. From other directions follow "all other Runcorn traffic" and then "Norton Priory" signs. By public transport, go by train to Runcorn then take hus 14 to where the Busway crosses the Bridgwater Expressway. It is then a half-mile walk. Winter opening: 12 noon to 4pm daily. Walled Garden closed.

Entrance: adults, £2.60; concessions, £1.40; under-fives, free; family day-ticket for two adults and three children, £6.95. Access: Good for wheelchairs and buggies. Food and drink: Café in the museum a few home-made cakes, but mainly wrapped hiscuits, sweets and crisps. Coffee, tea and soup available. Toilets: In the museum. Disabled toilet

and baby-change room. Clean and warm. Education: Extensive educational activ-

Are we nearly there?

A weekly round-up of events for children

Christmas themed events are coming thick and fast. It may seem like overkill, but many venues are pulling out the stops to put on some really special activities. (Then again, by the end of all this you may never be able to look a mince pie in the eye again.)

Christmas at the Zoo London Zoo, Regeni's Park Road, London (0171-449 6235) every weekend to 22 December. Special opening on Mnnday 23 December. Pre-book a halfhnur slot between 10.30 and 3.30pm. Price includes access to the rest of the zoo. Adults, £11; children, £9. At the children's zoo kids can meet Melchior the wise man (and the resident camels), introduce themselves to Santa's reserve reindeer, follow the shepherd with his sheep, or visit Isaac the lankeeper with his stable of donkeys and ponies. Santa will be in his grotto doling out gifts and there will be mince pies, mulled wine and special hot drinks for children.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Woolnton Hall Natural History Museum, Wooloton Park, Nottingham NG8 2AE (0115 928 1333). 19-21 December, 10am-11.30 am and 1pm-2.30pm. Entrance in museum: adults, £1.50 fnr adults; children, 75p; under-fives, free) This annual celebration of Christmas is specifically for the under-fives. Activities include singing, storytelling and tree decorating. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas family fun day Memorial Hall, Northwich, Vale Royal, Cheshire, 11am-3pm today (01606 41430). Free. Father Christmas will be stopping off on his busy schedule to hand out chocolate coins and buttons at this festive open day thrown by the local council. Children's craft activities: making cards and crackers, decorating T-shirts and prettifying logs to decorate the Christmas table. School orchestras will play all day and the mayor will make a grand draw for charity. The council's cherry-picker will be on hand to give children a bird's-eye view of Northwich.

Winter Wonderland Marwell Zoological Park, Winchester, Hampshire (01962-777407). Last spaces for Winter Wonderland available 19, 20

December. Wild Lights 16, 17 Dec. Adults, £ 7.50; children, £7.50; under-twos, £5.50. Pre-booking essential. Take children to a sparkling walk-through display of traditional and fantasy tableaux at Marwell Zoo, before perusing gift stalls, receiving a gift from Santa and greeting a few of his reindeer. Alternatively, take them along for an exciting evening visit to Wild Lights, tn see illuminations in the park.

A Tudor Christmas

Sulgrave Manor, Sulgrave, near Banbury, Oxfordshire (01295-760205) today and tomorrow 10.30am-1pm and 2-4.30pm. Adults, £4; children, £2. Visitors to Sulgrave Manor (home of George Washington's ancestors) will be met by the Inrd of the manor and his household in Tudor costume. The Great Hall will be decked with seasonal greenery and log fires will be burning. After a guided tour of the manor guests can scoff wassail and winter sweetmeats and learn about the customs and traditions of Christmas.

Christmas capers Clive House Museum, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (01743-354 811) 10day, 10am-

Get punch-drunk at Clive House Museum where families will be greeted by costumed attendants, and served coffee, mince pies and punch. Children can make their own cards and decorations, and the older ones may like to try their hand at decorating the Christmas cake.

Liese Spencer

One parent, will travel... possibly

Deborah Jackson assesses the value of single-parent offers from the travel industry

" uaranteed free child holidays!" declare the holiday brochures.
But very little is guaranteed if you fail to travel in the tradioonal family group of two parents and a modest num-

her of children. Single parents are the ones who probahly most need the rest - and the discount, but their needs are usually ignored. Travel operators make few concessions and may even insist that the oldest child pays the full adult rate. So we made some calls on behalf of a single mother with two children, aged six and eight, seeking a high-season holiday abroad or in the UK

Package holidays abroad

The lone parent does not stand a chance. As the Thomson brochure states, "A free child place is only available for a child sharing a room with two full-fare paying adults", and all the other operators we cheeked make the same disclaimer. Also, watch out for under-occupancy charges if your room or apartment is meant to

were feeble. Over and over, we were told we'd he better off paying for the oldest child as an adult and taking whatever concessions we could for the youngest. Airtours (01706 260000): Single parents

have to pay two adult fares whatever concessions they receive, said the operator. Sunworld (0113 255 5222): The singleparent family saver advertised in the brochure looked promising: "We offer holi-days where a special reduction applies to a child sharing a room with only one adult." But, the operator explained, this offer was redundant for a mother of two. "This only applies to one adult, one child. If you have two children, one pays the adult price."
Thomson (0990 673310): Thomson does not offer any concessions to single parents: "One of your children would have to go as an adult," I was told. I was referred to the Skytours hrochure for single-parent offers. Skytours (0121 252 3224): Even though this company is really and a hrand name for the Thomson grown, it has a much

parent with two children, or the savings selected hotels and apartments in 13 different resorts including Majorca, Tener-ife, Turkey, and Halkidiki, Greece. Both first and second child prices apply to children travelling with just one adult. Unfortunately, neither child counts towards under-occupancy charges on this offer, so supplements could be steep. First Choice (One Parent Family Hotline 0161 745 4600): The hotline is new for this

year. However, offers apply to a small handful of hotels and apartments, "mostly in Majorca", and places were almost all allocated at the time of calling. "Sometimes it's cheaper to pay two adult fares and take advantage of the free child offer." said the operator. A one-parent family staying at, for instance, the Rosa del Mar apartments in Palma Nova would also he liable for under-occupancy charges of £12 a night in high season,

whichever deal they travelled on. Cosmos (0161 480 5799): A bealthy range of single-parent deals in hotels and allinclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta this company is compan

ing a room with three children, the third child pays the adult price. Virgin Holidays (01293 617181): Excellent

news in the Florida/Caribbean brochure for lone parents with up to three children. "Single Parent Virgins" are invited to enjoy discounts on selected hotels in Oriando, Miami and St Petersburg.

Camping abroad

These holidays are tailor-made for families of unusual shapes and sizes. Under-18s travel free, and one parent can usually travel with four children without paying punitive supplements or extra adult fees.

Eurocamp (01565 626262): One-adult parties are offered £65 off the base holiday price. Operators are extremely helpful in working out the cheapest holiday prices and best deals on crossings. Keycamp (0181 395 4400): There's a £60 discount for one-parent families on singlecentre holidays departing between 26 June

and 20 August (£30 discount on other

between £30 and £85 for single-parent groups, depending on season.

Haven Europe (01705 466111): Haven's "Single Saver" offers parties headed by one adult a reduction of £8 a night between 19 July and 1 August, and £4 a night on other dates. This applies to holidays from five to 14 nights long.

Award-winning UK hotels A very mixed bunch of prices and attitudes from establishments who have won awards for catering for families.

The Knoll House, Studland, Dorset (01929 450450): A devilishly difficult system of adding up the children's ages and turning them into a perceotage left us with a 100 per cept bill for the eight-year-old and a 60 per cent reduction for the sixyear-old. "So the oldest child pays an adult fee?" I asked. "Well, yes, but it's not as simple as that." I wish it were.

The Saunton Sands Hotel, Braunton, Devon (01271 890212): One parent sharing with children in a triple-bedded room will not be penalised. "One child should pay an adult fee, but we would normally arranges discounted holidays and day trips.

rather than two. But if one adult is shar- Canvas (01383 644000): A reduction of waive that." Children each receive their normal reduction from the adult lariff (40 per cent for a six- and an eight-year-old). Crieff Hydro, Pertbshire (01764 655555): There are no double occupancy supplements for single parents, who qualify for the usual child discounts, according to age. Trevelgue Hotel, Porth, Cornwall (01637 872864): "We aim to give a great deal," said owner Nicholas Malcolm. "No single supplements, all discounts - even the youngest child free, when applicable." One-parent treats include complimentary childcare tickets; free use of gym, squash and tennis facilities, introductions to other guests for sports and entertainment; childcare at dinner time and priority booking on children's clubs. Top marks.

> The National Council for One Parent Families (0171-267 1361) produces a free information brochure. There's also a Guide to Holidays for One Parent Families' from the Holiday Care Service (01293 774535). One Parent Family Holidays (01776 889500) is a specialist tour operator offering hotel and camping holidays, mainly abroad. Holiday Endeavour for Lone Parents (01302 728791)



Duff Hart-Davis Country lanes: the soul of England

I is easy to mock the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Its aim is admirable: to save what is left of our countryside from being covered by concrete, bricks and asphalt. Yet its role is all too often negative - it forever tries to stop huilding on green sites, block planning permission, prevent construction of new highways.

Now, though, it has come up with a creative campaign to save country lanes - "the lost laces of England". Anyone who lives oo a lane, or has cause to use one regularly, will give this initiative a hearry welcome.

The CPRE's warning extends to the whole country: cars and lorries have already made many lanes intolerable for walkers or riders, it says, and the unbridled increase in traffic threatens "a part uf ourselves so deep that it makes us what we are ... not just the heart, but the soul of England".

I second that. Here in Gloucestershire the lanes that wind up and down the steep valleys of the Cotswold escarpment are an essential feature of the landscape, and they appal, astonish or delight visitors. One German friend could scarcely believe his eyes. "Das kann meht sein." he kept muttering incredulously as he nursed his Mercedes round hairpin bends between flowercovered hanks as high and steep as the roofs of houses rising from close in on either side of the seven-foot fairway. In Germany, he said, all this would be bulldozed out to a sensible width, To which I replied, "Thank God, this isn't Germany

The transport lobby's prescription is to turn lanes ioto highways by straightening bends, removing hedges and plastering the landscape with signs. The CPRE, in contrast, is pushing for lower speed limits, action to stop heavy lorries using small roads as rat-runs, and "traffic calming devices, making use of traditional features of lanes like hedgerows and walls".

Another CPRE proposal is for improved public transport in rural areas, to cut down car journeys. Though excellent in theory, this plan is extremely hard to make effective - as was brought home to us when we had American cousins staying.

They did not want to drive, so we investigated the possibilities of moving around our area hy bus or train. The Gloucestershire Public Transport county map shows hus routes snaking in all directions, and there is also the railway, with a branch line, reopened after a splendid local campaign, running straight into the heart of Gloucester.

But could we shift our cousins by public transport from base to the arboretum at Westonhirt, eight miles across country? First they would have had to walk a mile into the village. There a has could have taken them by a roundabout route to Tethury. A change there would have brought them to the start of the drive leading to the arboretum - with a long walk to the entrance. The journey there and back would have taken most of the day. So, of course, we took them by car.

There lies the rub. We who live in the sticks depend on cars, and have perforce to use the lanes. But we use them as little and as carefully as possible, and we want others to do the same.

Once, in a camp some way south of Kathmandu, I asked King Birendra of Nepal whether he saw the day when every village in his vertiginous land would be connected to a road. His answer was no: hundreds of hamlets in the Himalayas are so high and remote that no road will ever reach them.

It is up to us to ensure that parts, at least, of uur precious English landscape remain comparably isolated.



Literary gardening delights

Christmas books for the botanically bewitched. By Anna Pavord

ichael Pollan writes so well that, as Fred Allen used to say, he makes you feel like putting He is the American author of Second Nature, recently published in the UK as one of Bloomsbury's first in a new series of Gardening Classics

Mr Pollan bought a run-down old dairy farm io Connecticut, where he started to plant his first garden. The idea was to garden without upsetting the principles laid down by his hero, the 19thcentury naturalist Henry Thoreau. "Do not impose your will upon the wilderness, the woodchuck or the weeds," said Thoreau, from his shanty in the woods near Walden Pond.

As any experienced gardener could have told him. Mr Pollan was doomed to failure from the start. He may have understood ahout sharing the bounty of the garden, but the woodchucks sure as hell didn't.

His book describes how he gradually developed a more harmonious relationship with nature. In a post-Thoreau world, he sees his gardeo as the ideal interface between man and the natural world. Between the two diametrically opposed approaches to the land - that is, either raping it, or sealing it off and labelling it a oature reserve - sits his gardeo, the perfect amaigam. Gardeners learn to use the land without abusing it, and nature and culture are reconciled.

Heaza-wvyy, you may think. But it's not. Along the way are endlessly entertaining digressions into compost and its moral imperative, sex and class conflict in the garden, pompous catalogues, the war against weeds. Perhaps the closest thing published by an English writer is Russell Page's Education of a Gardener. But Pollan's book is better. And higger, in terms of what it

Bloomshury has published six Gardening Classics so far, all hardbacks, but at paperback prices (£10.99). One of their latest is William Robinsoo's The English Flower Garden, which first came out in 1883. Then, it was one of the most widely read and influential gardening books around. It is just as relevant today, especially in view of the new craze for liberating berbaceous plants from the corset of the herbaceous border and swathes instead.

The big book of the year is Dorling Kindersley years ago.

The new, black-jacketed encyclopaedia includes details of more than 15,000 plants (the earlier edition had about 8,000), all alphabetically arranged. It is staggeringly comprehensive, easy to use, and full of photographs which have been meticulously checked to ensure that the printed colour on each one matches exactly with the plant that is described alongside it.

As if that were not enough, the book also tells you where the plants originally came from, And knowing where a plaot grows in the wild, be it the Himalayas, Morocco, China or Siberia, gives a gardencr the hest possible clue as to how

ould be treated in a garden. clopaedia of Garden Planta Tropical a visitor of grades, there is noth-price is £55, but you can be sure that a good less. I was never a huge fan of the first, kitchen garden: orderly, productive, sengreen-jacketed Encyclopaedia of Plants suous with the smell of peaches, and glisand Flowers. I dido't like the way the tening in the light reflected from rich, plants were arranged in colours rather shiny leaves of ruby chard. Susan Campthan families, and there were too many bell, whose earlier book, Cottesbrooke, Kedding (Ebury Press, £30), it sounds suitably Anglo-Saxon, but it isn't a real place at all. It's a ocat anagram of "old

kitchen gardens".
The device gives Mrs Campbell the freedom to gloss over the history of the kitchen garden and to quote from other. much earlier writers. The kitchen gardeo was where gardening skills were honed to the highest level. It was the hasic training ground for young gardeners, steadily progressing from gardeo boy to journeyman, to foremao to head gardener, the pinnacle of the profession.

Indeed, John Claudius Loudon's advice to a journeyman seeking to put his foot on the next rung of the ladder

contract. leis on more than sing and collecting insects and minerals, and visiting every distinguished garden on his

Inevitably, the book is tioged with nostalgia, but never with melancholy. It celebrates the masterly way in which up many quixotic delights. I've fallen head over beels for Mr Lawsoo of Tirydail, oear Llandeilo, who built himself a cowhouse vinery in 1852 so that the cows' breath would provide the necessary heating. "And very pretty the cows look too with a row of chrysanthemums on the wall in front of them," said a contemporary correspondent.

Euphorbias by Roger Turner (Batsford, £25), is one of a series of serious monographs published by the Hardy Plaot Society. It is short on pictures and long on words such as cyathium, caruncle, axillary and tubercles. But it doesn't put me off. eveo though I haveo't the faintest idea what they mean. It's quite soothing to say

mantra On the "Il feel an irrepressible, and chiveled to give of turge to look their up in a botanical dictionary, but for the moment I'm content to leave them be and concentrate oo what is familiar in the book.

Euphorbias (spurges) are sexy plants; one of the few families of which you can say, "No gardeo should be without ..." As identificatioo, cultivation and propagation - but the lion's sbare of the book is taken up with descriptions of all the hardy euphorbias known to gardeners. That's an include the ancillary cultivars bred from them. If you like euphorbias, you occd this book.

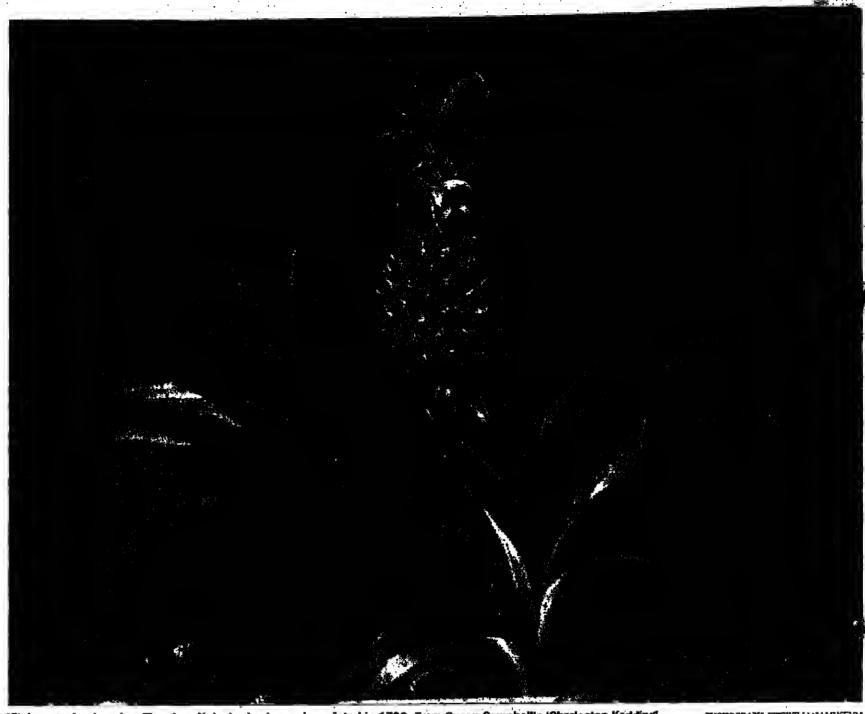
Ursula Buchan is a professiooal gardener, trained at Wisley and Kew, so you that is given in her sumptuously illus-Buchan's earliest books, The Pleasures of Gardening, and her delight in the io sensible shoes.

Introductory chapters on mulches, feeding, basic gardening techniques and tools are followed by sound words on ways of using different kinds of plants in the

plants that had been omitted altogether.

I was obviously in a minority, because that book has scarcely been off the best-seller list since it was published seven of the control of the c photograph of the authors shows them heavily disguised as James Joyce and Augustus John, io the library at Mountcullen, Mrs Conchita Gordon's astonishing 90 species, if you don't finely proportioned place (Georgian, of course) in Co Cork.

Lucan and Grey have been called in by Mrs Gordon to redesign the Mountcullen acres. The book describes and explains their amhitious plans for the estate. A only the first of their transformations. As thought to be the preserve only of ladies



letting them free in wilder, looser Kitchen garden luxuries: Theodore Netscher's pineapple, painted in 1720. From Susan Campbell's 'Charleston Kedding'

er to yourself. Like a processes by which plants can be coaxed il feel an irrepressible and chivyied to give of their best bas not

know you can rely on the practical advice cruel, synthetic and fatal gardeo are trated book Gardening for Pleasure in their previous book, The Decadent (Conran Octopus, £20). The text is a Cookbook, the authors reveal that there reworking and updating of one of Ms is a dark side to an activity widely

How to hunt with a hawk or join a husky race

Daniel Butler suggests a range of decidedly different gifts: country courses for fresh-air enthusiasts

inding a present for an unidoorsy friend or family member tends to be either ludicrously easy or impossibly difficult. Sometimes, a hip flask, pair of hinoculars or hand-warmer hits the spot

final days to Christmas tick by, an activity coincide with school holidays. break could be the answer. There are thousaods on offer, with the best providing not only exercise and fresh air, but entertainment and education.

Fly fishing on one of Britain's premier

of a medieval hunting scene. Leonard and a night in the neighbouring pub). Diana Durman-Walter (01450 860666) run falcoory holidays oo the Scottish borders. During late summer there's grouse course on bow to train, fly and hunt a hawk starts at £330. All prices include board and

may prefer the wild article, with a kitewatching holiday in the Cambrian mountains. A guided weekend in mid-Wales with Richard Knight (01597 perfectly, hut more often than not, the rambler, rider or bird-watcher already has every conceivable piece of state-of-the-art week's introduction to moorland ecology every conceivable piece of state-of-the-art equipment he or she could possibly need. For those still racking their brains as the

For those wanting to have something to show at the end of their break, Will and Lotde O'Leary (01547 528792) run stone-carvig weekends from their home on Offa's Dyke. Starting with an introduction to the rivers offers a therapeutic break. The tools and techniques of stone-carving, Arundell Arms Hotel (01566 784666) in guesis design and sculpt their own objects, Devon runs two- and four-day salmon and trout fishing courses fur beginners on its successes have included a full-sized head of 20 miles of water. Prices start at £270 for the four-day session, while weekends cost meotal bouse names. The long weekend meotal house names. The long weekend £150 (accommodation is extra, at £79 for a single room and £144 for a double). (Friday to Sunday) costs £140 and includes all tools, materials, lunch, tea and coffee, all tools, materials, lunch, tea and coffee, For those wanting to relive the romance but accommodation is extra (B&B is £17.50

Thrill-seekers may prefer an introduction to husky racing in Northamp-tonshire with Jobo and Penny Evans hawking with peregrines (£360 for four or five days), while on a more modest level, time (clients are advised to recruit their a day's rabbit or pheasant hunting costs own groups) begio the day with break-£65. If you fancy learning about the finer fast and an introduction to the dogs and points of the 4,000-year-old sport, a six-day equipment. After lunch, guests are allowed to take the reins themselves, dri-ving a team of dogs on trails through a local forest. Weather permitting, a sledge

Less interventionist raptor enthusiasts is used but British winters being what (01491 839766). Participants are expected they are, a wheeled rig is more usual the price: a hargain, is £35 a head. Cheaper holidays are available from the dry-stone walls and lay hedges. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

to donate their labour to construct paths, clear undergrowth, dredge ditches, rework

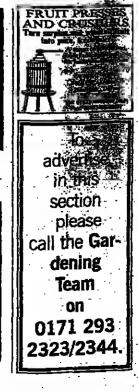
Prices, which cover accommodation

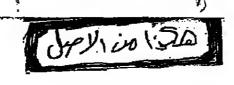
(this can be very basic) and food begin at about £20 for a weekend and £32 for a week - a bargain when you consider the self-satisfied glow of altruism you take home at the end. home at the end.





Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6BR





all consuming

Shopping: the end of silver hallmarking.....16 The ultimate guide to buying drink in Calais.....18

How fir can you go?

Christmas trees are seriously fashionable, says Jane Furnival

irs are in fashion. We're in the grip of the greatest nos-talgia for Christmas trees since Christmas was invented. Bejewelled hranches are everywhere. Liberty's of London has sold out of tassels at £2 each. People will pay florists £80 for a day's lesson in dressing a tree.

We like to think of our trees as being intrinsic to the spirit of Christmas. In fact, no other age bothered so much about them.

Homes and interiors magazines for the last century have few. Tree decorations instantly sum up the spirit of the age. To see a society's priorities, look at the top first. The patriotic Victorians had a Union Jack. Now the Empire has gone, we turn to angels and fairies.

The Americans always stuck to gold, in the form of gilded fruit. In 1897 a former railway worker, James Clements, decked his tree with \$70,000-worth of gold ouggets he had found in he Klondike gold rush.

The first recorded Christmas tree just had paper roses. Scholars high ahout pagan nature-revival rites, but in fact it started at an office party in Latvia, around 1510. The lads of the merchaots' guild cut down an evergreen, decked it with roses, danced round it in the marketplace, then set fire to it.

After that, fun firs (though not fun fires) caught on, prompting a serious crackdown in 16th-century Alsace: "No one shall have more than one Christmas tree or more than eight shoe lengths." In good EC tradition, this was ignored.

Tree decor was religious. The rose for the Virgin Mary. Coloured wafers for holy communion with Christ. In time, these became gilded fruit, to be eateo on Twelfth Night.

The German-cum-British royal family introduced trees here. 10 1848 the Illustrated London News carried a sketch of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in front of a tree decorated, as he recalled it from his childhood, with candles and baskets of sweets. Religious roses and wafers were out of the window for the acquisitive, Protestant Victorians, Their desired effect was Tutankhamun's Tomb meets the Generation Game. All human

life was hung oo that tree, from beads to the kitchen sink. Dickens is the usual suspect for creating Christmas, but his only mention of trees, in a magazine article of 1850, describes someone else's, oot his own. It had "dolls, real watches, tables, chairs, bedsteads, wardrobes, eight-day clocks wonderfully

made in tin... fiddles and drums, guns, swords...' Christmas tree candle accidents were few, but tragic enough make a few concerned ecceptrics consider inventing elec-Tric fairy lights. Mazda got there first with elaborate strings of coloured Santa faces, more elaborate, contrived and exciting

10 1900, the Vanderbilts showed off theirs on a 30ft tree, which cost \$200 a day in electricity. Not a success. By 1905 they had returned to the latest "drip proof" candles.

With the 1914 war, we oaturally turned our back on German decorations. Their thin, solemn Santa was replaced by a fat smiling American version on paper. The thrifty saved last year's tree; bare of needles, and re-erected it next year, cloaked. in white cotton quilted wadding to represent snow,

After the war, silhouettes were slimmer. In the Thirties, the convenience Christmas arrived in the form of a tinsel tree with fold-down branches and built-in glass icicle decorations.

But the movies reintroduced glamorous, schmaltzy and highly commercial Christmases. Tinsel trees matched the glitzy diamonds worn by the stars. In 1938, Christmas was licensed to Disney. Children were

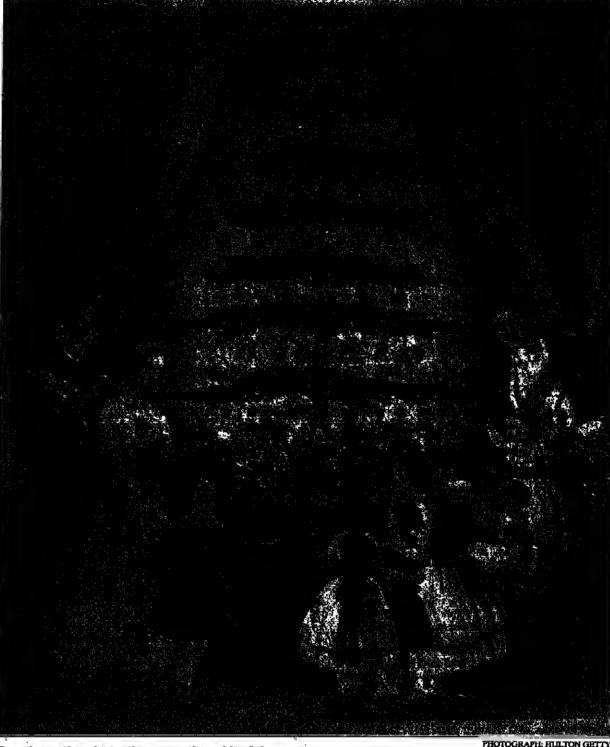
desperate to see the oew film, Snow White, then take bome the tree baubles to match. And these were baubles shaped like the airships, labelled Graff Zeppelin. The Second World War brought austerity. The Geffrye Museum io Londoo has a tiny tinsel tree to be folded up and

carried to the air raid shelter during the Blitz. You couldn't get silver or gold paint, so glass balls were clear, or painted with stripes. But by the Fifties, brash, acid colours were in. "Space has

become a spiritual necessity: remove non-essentials from your room," intoned House and Garden magazine in 1950. Glass halls were quasi-scientific, with conical indeotations, like bollow turnmies. Smaller beads were wired together like molecular models. Nyloo threads covered polystyrene scientific balls.

The writer SJ Perelman was driven insane by trying out the suggestions of a Mr Lester Gaba in Mademoiselle magazine: "Dip tips of twisted cotton strips into India ink and trim your tree entirely with 'ermine tails'. Pin a fresh mauve orchid to the top."

The dissenting voice of Cool was always around. The higher your class, the less your tree. In 1875, the Aesthetes might hang a few unlit, tiny paper lanterns oo some bare twigs in a dark corner of the room. In 1960, Hause and Garden shows decorator Nancy Lancaster's Bond Street flat at Christmas. You can just see a shred of tinsel cowering in a pot plant.



Tree decorations instantly sum up the spirit of the age

The Sixties proved to be a DIY-fest. When we bad finished papering over original features, there were modern trees to make, to match your home-licked paperchains. Try the bachelor tree, made by impaling hundreds of cigarettes on wires stuck in florist's foam in a vase. Or use marshmallows. "Colourstressed titbits" are the things to stick on the tree, as Ideal Homes put it. We struggled with eggshells on barley stalks, stars made of drinking straws, and holly painted white and stuck into lumps of Plasticine.

By 1970, the Pill was in, and children and Christmas trees weren't. You might stick a star on top of your giant cactus, paint honesty leaves red, poke some twigs into a milk bottle or drape some tinsel over bendy floor lights drooping over the table.

Suddenly came the Eighties, designer doo-dahs, and trees power-dressed to match the pussycat-bowed hlouses of successful women everywhere. "Single colour themes," advised Homes and Gardens, "are more elegant". White iridescent trees gave way to natural-looking artificial ones with gold baubles tied with swathes of ribbon and bows.

Fairy lights caught disco fever, and started repeating on us like the onion soup that we ate in chic little bistros.

Banks did up their reception areas in tartan to emphasise the Scottish values of thrift and reliability, and trees matched. People paid hundreds of pounds for a pair of round-clipped box trees to put beside the coal-effect gas fire.

Then the recession struck. A late-Eighties best-seller was an ironic cardboard cut-out tree, complete with printed-on decorations. Meanwhile the "baves" bought expensive designer-decorated trees that looked quite ordinary until you noticed

Vivienne Westwood on the label. What of the Ninetics? Minimalists buy bare-branched trees like witches' hroomsticks. Ecologists stick outdoor lights and balls of bird food on the growing tree in the front garden. But when we're honest, most of us prefer a family tree, a marker of real tradition, with faded tinsel, the candles your granny kept in their old clips and children's hand-made decorations. The white-painted bolly in Plasticine has bypassed naff and become nostalgia.

The Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA, has a small exhibition of Christmas trees through the ages (recorded information, 0171-739 8543).



good thing

Micromap starter pack, £19.99; additional city centres £9.99.

The Micromap is a cunning pocket-sized viewer through which tiny maps are magnified, and it could mean the end of bulky road atlases and unwieldy maps. The starter pack includes a set of iaminated maps,

no larger than credit cards, and the tiny hand held viewer into which they're slotted. Additional packs of maps include twenty UK regional cities, a comprehensive guide to London, ten European city centres and ten cities in America.

For mail order call 0800-421 252: Micromap is also available from Harrods, Selfridges, Leading Edge, The General Trading Co, and the YHA Shop.

mad thing



Fashion pundits can recreate fresh and zany catwaik looks using "Twirlees". Add an electric-blue stripe à la Chanel in an instant. Club queens and disco divas can also add Twirlees to synchronise their latest look. Available in siren red, pixie green, electric blue, petal pink, canary yellow and this seasoo's favourite: passionate purple.

£6.95 each from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1, and Superdrug branches nationwide.

sure thing

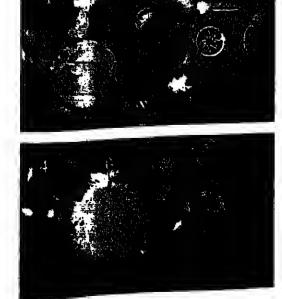
Cocktall shaker, £15 and Martini glasses, £8 for a set of four.

No party is complete without cocktails, and Martinis are just the thing: easy to make and easier still to drink. Get yourself down to M&S and grab ooe of these sleek chrome shakers and a set of Martini glasses. But remember, this is the drink that 007 got wrong Martinis are never shaken, you should use the shaker to rinse your

ice with Dry Vermouth, pour off the liquid, drop the ice cubes into the glass and top up with your choseo poison. If you like your Martini gin based try Tanqueray, which comes in a bottle to match this shaker, and if you prefer vodka make sure it's Polish.

Marks and Spencer stores nationwide.

Six of the best... for a well decorated 1996



t's time to make a trip to the loft or garage, or under the stairs, to drag out last year's Christmas decorations. Having to buy new ones can be anneying, but it's comforting to know that everyone has the same problem. Either you force yourself to admit how tarty they're beginning to work - or you find yourself gazing stubbornly at the

same old baubles, year in, year out. We feature alternatives to the traditional red and green balls - from band-made Russian diamonds to mirrored disco balls. Travel further alield, think globally and you won't need much ancio, turns granders, in a root in the class of the clas





1 Pink-and-red-patterned papier maché ball 1 £2.75; orange and yellow papier maché ball, also £2.75; both from Habitat, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and nationwide (0645 334433).

Orange silk thread ball ball with mirror work, £3; further pink ball ball with tassle, £3, both from Designess Guild, 267-271 Kings Road,

from Designers Guild, 267-271 Kings Road, London Sw 20171-2437 3000).



STYLIST: HOLLY DAVIES, PHOTOGRAPES: TONY BUCKINGHAM

4 Pink feather ball, £2.99; disco ball, £1.99. Paperchase, 213 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and nationwide (0171-5800 8496).

5 Red embroidered heart, £3.50; purple embroidered ball, £8.50; from Liberty, 214-220 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-730 1234).

Gold satin thread Russian drop £3.99; white Gold Russian drop £3.99; white Gold Russian diamond, £3.99; white Gold Russian drop £3.99; white £



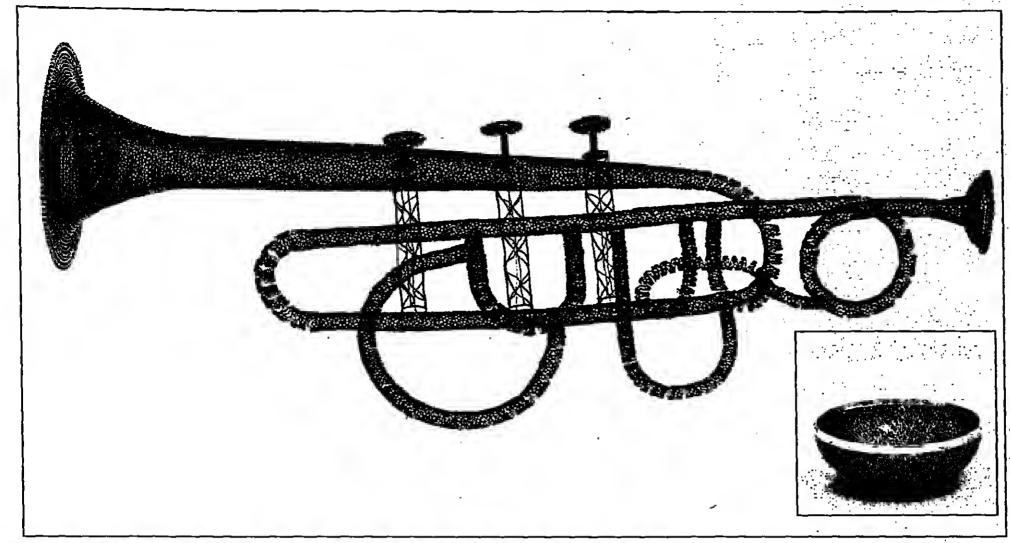
in lofts). Much cheaper than a plumber the Hanging Heater only costs £13.85 HOW TO ORDER

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An end to the silver standard

European laws are rendering the assay offices obsolete. By John Windsor



Main picture: Robert Baines's 'The Entropy of Red'; and inset an Ian Ferguson bowl, both from the V&A's silver galleries

oldest form of consumer protection - the compulsory hallmarking of silver by British assay offices - is coming to an end. This will be the last Christmas when shoppers can huy contemporary silver giftware – tankards, candlesticks, jewellery bearing only British hallmarks.

Next spring, following a European Court of Justice ruling, changes to UK hallmarking law will permit European exporters to sell silver bearing oeither the official British import hallmark, nor the hallmark of the International Hallmarking Convention, the only other hallmark recognised by the UK.

It will be lawful to sell imported articles described as silver without first submitting them for content testing and independent assay offices - or having them stamped, prior to export, with the hallmark of the Convention, a group of

fter nearly 700 years, the UK's hallmarks of most European countries, even those not in the Convection.

These include Spain, France and the Netherlands - countries which, despite their compulsory and independent halimarking systems, are not members of the Convention because their assaying procedures are not considered to be stringent enough.

As a result, British shoppers will need to accustom themselves to a confusing array of European hallmarks, such as the French eagle. They will oo longer be sure to find on contemporary silver currently familiar hallmarks, such as the Convention's weighing scales, symbol of justice, or the British inverted-omega with its accompanying regional hallmark: a horseshoe (for London and Sheffield), a triangle (for Birmingham) hallmarking at one of the UK's four or a cross of St Andrew (Edinburgh), plus the 925 in an oval, indicating that it is 92.5 per cent sterling silver.

As for the traditional dog-eared A4-10 European countries (including size hallmark guide pinned to the wall Britain) that enforces rigorous stan-What will become compulsory whether the French tolerate variations throughout the EC is recognition of the cither side of their eccentric 800 stand-

ard, or whether the Dutch permit hallmarking of mixed metals - none of which is at present legal in this country. To find out would require a collection of scarce and expensive reference books - or a trip to Brussels.

The brushing aside of British hallmarking law by Brussels has enraged members of Britain's silver establishment, Lord Broadbridge, a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths Company and an amateur silversmith for 20 years, says: "In an age when consumer protection is to the fore, the Europeans seem to be moving against it. The public will

No other country in the world hut ours has such a complete and ideal system of hallmarking. I don't want to depart from it one jot."

According to Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP and promoter of the existing Hall-marking Act (1973), the EC's threat to ment of Trade and Industry as "rela-British hallmarking will be strongly resisted. He says: "I've spoken to everybody from the Prime Minister down and will result in "infraction proceedings", they are solidly against these changes."

The name that defenders of British EC Commission for an explanation. hallmarking whisper is Houtwipper. It

Unusual Gifts

The jigsew is your

castle and your

sounds like the name of a cad in a PG more explosive shot against British Wodehouse novel. In fact, it is Mrs Ludomira Nœltje Barbara Houtwipper, charged under Dutch hallmarking law - similar to ours - with attempting to sell imported silver and gold rings with-

out the required Dutch import marks. The European Court of Justice found against her, on the grounds that her goods were not hallmarked at all. However, it ruled that goods with hallmarks stamped in a member state by an independent body "equivalent" to that required by Dutch law, which are "intelligible" to consumers, could be legally offered for sale in the Netherlands without additional Dutch hallmarking. The judgment was seen as a windfall by Dutch, French and Spanish-silver

That was in September 1994. There is now a rush, described by the Departline with Houtwipper. Failure to do so

hallmarking lying in the EC locker: a draft directive that would make legal not only hallmarks by approved independent bodies such as the British assay offices, but also by silver manufacturers themselves. Independent hallmarking and manufacturer's marks, according to the draft, are "equivalent". Others consider that marking by manufacturers is an invitation to fraud.

It is the threat of being forced by the EC to accept manufacturers' marking - as practised by Europe's two higgest silver manufacturers. Italy and Germany - that has caused most fear and outrage among British silversmiths.

Lord Broadhridge says: "German and Italian manufacturers marks are a ; disgrace. They are judge and jury in the same court." David Evans, Assay Master of Goldsmiths Hall, adds: "If, as the European Commission deems, manutively urgent", to bring British law into facturers' marks and iodependent hallmarks are 'equivalent', and you can't tell the difference between them, what's the Consumers might as well hallmark Apart from Houtwipper, there is a silver themselves."

The Family

Organiser

MAC .

'Our fine silver needs no hallmark'

S "non-hallmarking" countries, Italy and Germany, fume about Britain's compulsory halimarking of imports. A "trade restriction", they say.

But what of contemporary silversmiths in this country? Some of those at the cutting edge of silver design do not give a jot for hallmarking. What is the relevance to silver design, they ask scornfully, of a system devised by Edward I in 1300 to make sure that silver plate turned into coin was of the same sterling standard?

Alistair McCallum a 51-year-old Australian silversmith working in this country, says: "The only good reason for hallmarking a piece of silver is if it has no

artistic value, only bullion value". His bowls, by the Japanese mokume gane or "wood-grain process, so-called because of its flecks of silver mixed with copper, cost about £2,000 each. The mixture of metals disqualifies them from hallmarking as silver. Even the silver rim of one of them was rejected by the . London assay office on the grounds that it was attached to mixed metal. So he no longer bothers with hallmarking. That means he cannot

determined just hy weighing it". He defends maker marking, legal in Australia, "Frauds have the book thrown at them by the Trade

legally call his work

silver. But so what?

"People who buy my

work are aware of its

Practices Commission"." McCallum's bowls are not the only contemporary silverware that seem to be retreating ever farther beyond the office. Who would have guessed that the

BUSY FAMILIES

01789

SWIDD, CIAM

NIGHTSHIRTS GLENESKE

red wire trumpet by another Australian, 48-year-old Robert Baines, was silver at all? In fact it is silver wire lacquered red. To hallmark it would be

to knock a note in it Has British hallmarking law cramped creativity in design? After all, Britain has no dedicated retailer of contemporary. silverware and the few contemporary. commissioned pieces that crop up at auction get knocked down for as little as a tenth of their price when new.

You can form your

own opinion by visiting the V&A's new silver galleries, opened last month, where you can compare displays of silverware commissioned by Goldsmiths Hall every one hallmarked with those commissioned by the V&A, which include Baines's unhallmarked trumpet, McCallum's unhalimarked bowls and some delightfully straggly unhallmarked necklaces of oxidised silver that look like

Cynthia Cousens The point of this gallery," says its curator, Philippa Glanville, "is to see how conservative, or otherwise, the Brits are. We don't take sides on hallmarking

barbed wire, by the 40-

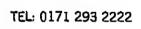
year-old Briton

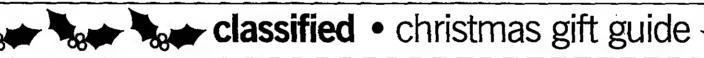
The trumpet? "It's conceptual art, isn't it, very much a feature of the Eightics and Nineties." A legitimate use for the silver? "It value - and that is oot couldn't have been made out of anything else. Silver is malleable, ductile and has this great softness. fussiness. Can't you just imagine Robert

> fireside, knitting it?" By contrast, the most striking piece in the Goldsmiths Hail cabinet is 42-year-old Jane Short's vase with enamelled jay's wing decoration, It was bottom before enamelling.

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Baines sitting at his





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ly acquired, this bust stands 16cm high, cast from a Bussian original it depicts Wadmur Hyrch Ulyanov. (1870-1924) more popularly known as Lenat, one of the makers of the 19th Century. and admirers of the former USSA.

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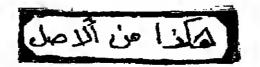
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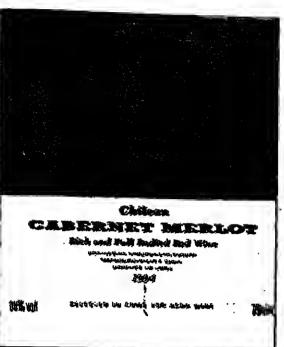






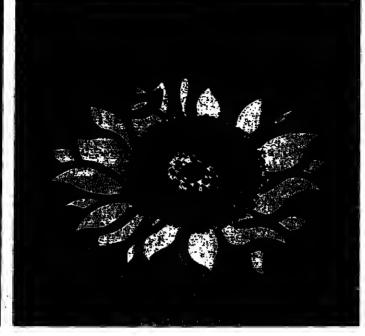
Never mind the bottles...

"As we drink more wine the packaging has become more frivolous, writes Sheila Prophet



5







hat do Trio, Poets Corner and Catalyst have in common? And who are Big Frank, Cardinal Zin and the Fat Bas-

Believe it or not, these are all brands of wine. Wine marketing is becoming bolder and hrasher by the day, with wacky names, riotous labels and sexy bottles, It seems it's all part of Britain's new, light-hearted attitude to the grape.

Ten years ago we didn't understand wine and we stuck to those stolid North European wines that were designed to go with food," says David Howes, Communications Manager of Thresher Wine Shops, "Then the Australians reinvented wine and gave us something fresh, fruity and springy which was great to drink on its own. The packaging changed along with the style of wine, Today we all know much more about wine, it's part of everyday life, and we are demanding a bit of friv-

If the Aussies started the whole thing, supermarkets such as Tesco and Safeway bave also done wheir bit by taking the fear out of buying wine. One major advance is what the trade calls "varietorial" labelling, which means labelling wine by the grape rather than the region it comes from. The result is that now we all know our Chardonnays from our

The other big change is the attention given to

labels. The ideal back label contains clear, helpful information about the wine itself and the serving of it, while the front is often a miniature work

Beautiful labels were once confined to very expensive wines, such as Château de Mouton Rothschild, whose makers commissioned artists such as Picasso to illustrate them. These days everyday wines under a fiver are doing the same

Nick Dymoke-Marr, Senior Wine Buyer for the supermarket chain Asda says: "Labels are especially important us to because 80 per cent of our buyers are women and there is a saying that the first glass is with the eye. Wine also has a certain romance, which we want to preserve."

The result is that many bottles now bear names and scenes which evoke their exotic origins. Asda have a range of Greek wines called Temple Ruins and Marble Mountain, and of course there are numerous Australian Wines with unpronounceable names and dreamy water colours depicting the out-

There's no doubt these pictures are pretty, but are they accurate? " Sometimes we do use a bit of artistic licence," confesses David Howes. "When we launched Kings Canyon, a Californian wine, the makers sent over their idea for the label, a pretty picture with apple trees and little animals playing around. It wasn't what we wanted at all. Instead we sent back a picture of rugged scenery, with great rocks reaching to the sky, and said This what we want. OK, it is actually in Arizona, but it looks dramatic on the shelf."

Drama is also the key when it comes to colour. Eye-catching reds, oranges and yellows remain the favourite choices, although the very latest trend is to break a long held colour taboo in the industry and use the colour blue.

We have a South African wine called Lost Horizons, which is in a hlue bottle. We were always told never to use hiue with wine, though no one seems to know where this taboo came from, hut people seem to like it, as it is selling extraordinarily well," says Geraldine Jago, Wine Development Manager of The Victoria Wine Company.

In fact the bottles themselves can be an important selling point, Remember those Paul Masson carafes we all collected a few years ago?

"The newest bottle is sexy - long and slim with a flanged lip at the top to stop drips, and a tiny label," says David Howes. "The Californian company Gallo have used this shape for their wine furning Leaf, and a Chilean winemaker called Ignacio Recabarren bas used it for a wine called Trio which he produced for us. He says the name represents the three elements of wine, the soil, the climate and the maker - be is a very vain man!

When he first produced Trio, Ignacio said, 'This bottle has the beauty of Sharon Stone - you can

see everything you are getting!"

An increasing number of wines are named after people, some of whom exist and some don't. The Victoria Wine Company, for example have a popular range named Big Frank - there's Big Frank's Red, Big Frank's White, and his latest, a sweet wine called Big Frank's Seriously Sticky. "Yes, Big Frank exists," says Geraldine Jago. "He is Frank Chludinski, a Pole from Boston who married a lady from the South of France whose father had a vineyard, and now he makes wine. We also have Ed's Red, and he exists too. He is flying winemaker Ed Fla-

However, Fat Bastard, a Chardonnay sold by the new Firkin chain is not named after an overbearing vineyard owner with a hig appetite. Instead the wine was apparently christened when its French maker, Thierry Boudinaud, tasted it and pro-

nounced it "a fat bastard of a Chardonnay". Trendy chain Oddbins bave a few characters of their own, though they admit these exist only in the imaginations of eccentric winemaker Randall Grahm and the artist Ralph Steadman, who designs many of their labels. "There is the Catto Randall's vineyard, and there is Cardinal Zin, a religious chap who has been tempted off the cheapest wines."

straight and narrow by the Zinfandel grape," says Oddbins' Karen Wise.

Randall's other wines include the authentically Italian sounding Rosato Del Fiasco, named because the first hatch proved a disaster, and two best-selling bottles simply called Bloody Good White and Bloody Good Red.

Thankfully, wine isn't yet competing with alcopops such as Two Dogs, named after the rude schoolboy joke about the first thing the Indian haby saw outside its wigwam. But jokiness is definitely catching on. The Victoria Wine Company already sells a New Zealand Sauvignon called Cat's Pee On A Gooseberry Bush, which surprisingly sells well, and even sillier names look set

It may all be just a gimmick, but it seems to be working. Our consumption of wine has quadrupled in the last 25 years, and even wine experts are smiling, "Cat's Pee and Fat Bastard may be straining the boundaries of good taste, but on the whole the use of bumour to break down the fear of huying wine and to make it more accessible can only be a good thing," says Gareth Lawrence of the Winc and Spirit Education Trust. "Of course it wouldn't work if the wine itself didn't mateb up, but that alyst, a cat named in a har in Santa Cruz, close isn't the case. In the last few years there has been a vast improvement in the standards of even the

...but pull out all the stops

Sam Coates tests that most important of seasonal aids - the corkscrew

belt huckle, blunt razor or thumb is all it takes the persistent to open a bottle of wine. However, for those not prepared to display such desperation, the heart-sinking mantra: Does anyone have a corkscrew?" must be chorused at every party.

In the true spirit of the clergy, it was a devotee of the cloth who, by patenting the corkscrew, hrought man closer to drink. The first English patent was issued to a clergyman named Samuel Henshall in 1795. He simply added a disc to the end of the worm (the curly bit that goes into the cork) to compress the cork and improve the screw's pulling power. It was sold at an auction last April, along with a 1905 German model whose handles, hetween which the screw was attached, formed the legs of a semi-naked lady.

Both items came from the personal collection of an Italian. Gianni Giachin, who lived in London until his

death last year and had one of the world's higgest corkscrew collections. The public were obviously delighted by them, paying between £100 and £2,000 per

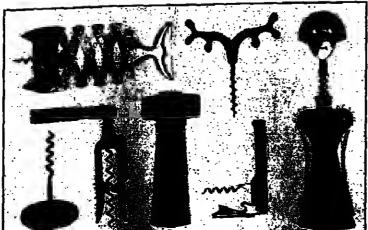
For David Howse, a Threshers' wine taster, the way the hottle is opened affects the taste of the wine. The corkserews which require less effort are better," he says, "because they cause the least agitution to the liquid inside. I think the Screwpull is the best, if a little expensive: we sell models for up to £80. On the whole, those devices with a nail-like worm are the worst because they break easily and require a lot more effort."

The Independent had the onerous task of opening innumerable bottles, so we could advise our readers which corkscrew to buy this Christmas.

Anna Green corkscrew, £32.95 A must for socialite Dr Who fans. This monster contraption bears more than a passing resemblance to a Time Lord-chasing cyberman, dressed in a turquoisecoloured party dress. The design is very Freudian: when you push down its arms, the cork pops out from under the girl's dress. Hideous the contraption and hideous the price.

Waiter's Friend, £4.95 This is the equivalent of a penknife with the more exciting arms removed. It's small and light, which makes it





amiably portable, but also easy to misplace. If you don't want to appear pretentious, the Harrods label can be scratched off without too much difficulty. Less than a fiver, it's probably the cheapest thing in the whole store. (Harrods, Knightsbridge: 0171 730 1234)

Screwpull, by Le Creuset, £16.80 This corkscrew would have made Dr Rubik proud; those with aching brains this Christmas should steer well clear. However, according to corkscrew connoisseurs, owning this device is the zenith to which the wine-drinking public should aspire. tual) on the Crick and Watson dou- the Connun Shop (0171 589 7401)

hle belix principle, and its Teflon coating means that little effort is required: just place the lip of the device against the bottle and start turning. Available from Diverti-menti Mail Order (0171 386 9911).

Antiers, £17.95 Elegantly sculpted to fit Frank Bruno's knuckles, this one is based on the original tried and tested design. Don't bother to buy it - in fact, if you do have £17.95 to throw away, why not spend it on international phone calls in an attempt to track down a plastic model of Buzz Lightyear from Disney's Toy Story?

Autopull, £9.95 "The ethos of the Nineties is convenient hut dull." In keeping with this, the Autopull is about as boring as a corkscrew can get. It is made of dull hlack or white plastic, is based on the principal of the screwpull, and it works! Its only men-

tionable feature is

its hland appear-

ance: it would clash horribly at the dinner table with the antique candlesticks and Waterford crystal.

The Lazy Fish, £19.95 There is a wide range of possible uses for the Lazy Fish hut a corkscrew is not the first that springs to mind. It could be more gainfully used as a novelty door stopper. It strongly resembles a pair of pliers with the end missing. One look at it, and it'll be quite clear wby this will undoubtedly be the most popular corkscrew this Christmas. Its bright, shiny surface lures the most vulnerable of relatives (still with no idea of what to buy for Christmas) – and its elastic design will keep the recipient amused for many minutes. The fishbone concertina structure drastically reduces the effort needed to extract a cork from a hottle - but unfortunately it rather impedes the progress of the screw into the cork in the first place.

La Poigne Wood Corkscrew, £29.95 La problème ici, c'est que les instructions sont en français. Alors, according to the back of the packet this is an "objet précieux"; that is,

It is based (says the office intellec- Jerry's Home Store (0171 581 0909);

Adwatch: liqueurs By Meg Carter

Proof (if it were needed) that Christmas is hut ten days away comes in the blitz of commercials now airing for Santa's favourite: sticky liqueurs. Just as aunties and uncles across the land dust off the remains of last year's bottle, so the drinks companies are lining up their hattalions for this year's festive Onslaught.

Archers, Baileys, DiSaronno amaretto, Sheridan's, Tia Maria and more - not to mention a selection of sherries and ports from Croft's to Cockburn – are once more gracing our TV screens, each with a promise of elegance and sophistication.

Take Sheridan's, currently sporting a stylish black-and-white ad highlighting conflicting emotions – love and hate, trust and betrayal. You can't appreciate one without the other, the endline explains: just as the brand's dark coffee liqueur must be mixed with the accompanying white liqueur

cream.
Likewise, Tin Maria.
Having dropped Eighties super model Iman, advertising agency Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe's new campaign features an enigmatic Princess of Darkness. The sequence of artfully shot ads, which blend style and sopbistication with film noir, were shot by Highlander 2 director Andy

Morahan. Yet behind the customary gloss a number of manufacturers are attempting to effect a subtle change of tack. For many years, Christmas has marked the focus of their year's marketing activities. Now, they are attempting to position their products as an all-year-round tipple.

So. Tia Maria exploits the vogue for quaffing coffee liqueur mixed with Coke. And Baileys, which for the first time uses humour, features a couple in evening dress apparently getting up to something naughty in an ancient, rickety lift (in fact, they are simply enjoying an innocent glass of Baileys).

The idea is to encourage consumers to consider

drinking Baileys whenever they go ont - not just when they're staying at home, explains Hugh Burkitt, chairman of Balleys' agency Court Burkitt and Company. A previous campaign featured a man hringing in sacks of ice to add to the drink - another anempt to re-position it as more than an after-dinner liqueur.

"We know people tove the taste of all these liqueurs. but unfortunately they tend to categorise - in this case, liqueurs are still seen by many as after dinner drinks or as drinks for Christmas," adds Tim O'Donnell, marketing controller at International Distillers (IDV) and Vintners whose brands include Baileys, Sheridan's, DiSaronno and

Dramhuie. However, IDV has worked to re-position its liqueurs by encouraging consumers to try them in pubs, hars and restaurants, throughout the year and in higger measures - as a long drink. Baileys, which remains market leader with sales 70 per cent ahead of any other product, now enjoys only 60 per cent of annual sales at Christmas; not so long ago the figure was nearer 100 per cent.

The move seems to be paying off. Sales of DiSaronno are up 60 per cent year on year over the past 12 months. Meanwhile Sheridan's, a much newer

brand, is "flying", he claims. The effect on the liqueurs market as a whole, however, remains harder to quantify. Current estimates suggest total sales are growing at a much slower rate - annual sales now stand at around 32 million bottles. According to O'Donnell, growth for IDV has been at the expense of smaller rival hrands.

Small wonder if competitors are now also attempting to re-posinon their fiqueurs as a cool and flexible drink anytime and anywhere. They just can't afford not to. After all, it's hardly good for husiness if your product is only served three days out of 365, while for the rest of the year it sits in sticky obscurity - at the back of the drinks cabinet.

Chic and cheerful

Philippa Czernin on the joys of festive shopping in Calais

tocking up for Christmas means anticipating lots more of everything more consumption of food and drink, definitely more expense, probably more rows, and, if you're lucky, more fun, too. But to achieve the fun bit, you need to heed the motto of every great organiser and "Be prepared" or, as the French say. "Soyez preparé!" And with cross-Channel ferry and hovercraft fares at an annual, seasonal low, a day trip to Calais becomes a happy option, particularly as the pound is getting stronger against the franc.

You need to plan carefully. Not only will you have to calculate whether what looks like a bargain in francs actually is when converted into pounds, but you also have to make sure that the ferry, trains and buses connect so you don't waste valuable shooping time. If you go by ferry, bear in mind that the crossing takes an hour and a half and that the system of "turn-up and go" means that at peak times you might not be able to get on to your first-choice sailing, and that France is an hour ahead of GMT.

Make the trip easier for yourself by tak-ing a shopping trolley, however bad this may be for your image. The one restric-tion imposed by the ferry companies and Hoverspeed on walk-on passengers' bag-gage capacity is that you can only bring on board "as much as you can carry". Alternatively, take a car and exercise your packing skills io filling it up.
You can find your first bargains even

before you arrive in France. In the ferry departure terminal at Dover, currencyconverters, maps, phrase books and other "essential" French shopping accessories are for sale at discount prices. On board, queues form immediately for duty-free not surprising when pre-Christmas promotions mean you can buy a litre of spirits for £5.99 which would cost around £14 at home. Since the EU border controls were relaxed, you can buy your duty limit all over again on the return journey, which accounts for the passengers who head

straight back to England, touching only a foot on to French soil to satisfy Customs. But the real attractions of a shopping trip to Calais are the hypermarkets. Mammouth is the nearest to the ferry terminal and easy to get to. Those without cars should take the free daytime bus from the Calais ferry dock, get out at the station and then catch the No 5 bus. Alternatively, take the No 7 bus to Cité Europe, the megalithic shopping centre at the head of the Channel Tunnel. With over 150 shops, including the newest Carrefour hyperincluding the newest Carrefour hyper-market, Cité Europe demands stamina. If you are driving, follow the signs out of Calais – they're impossible to miss. Mammouth is a hybrid of the familiar

and the unusual: the first shop you see is Sainsbury's! But this is Sainsbury's with a difference – it sells only alcohol. Beer and wine are probably the best bargains of the trip; all the supermarkets in Calais have good ranges and French duty on wine is considerably lower than in the UK. You can buy Sainsbury's Cuvée Prestige Claret for Fr34.90 or treat yourself in Mammouth to three bottles of 1992 St Emilion Grand Cru for Fr119. Seasonal promotions on beer feature such bargains as 24 bottles of locally-brewed Saint Omer for Fr32.95 or 26 bottles of Kronenbourg for Fr48.50 with six bottles of "Bière de Noël" thrown in. Watch out for cheap champagne, however: it can be undrinkable and back in the UK you can buy a Grande Marque champagne in Majestic or Oddbins for less than in a French supermarket

The choice of food is overwhelming. On the cheese counter you'll find there are 12 varieties of Camembert at every stage of ripeness, goat's cheese in all shapes and sizes (a pyramid of Chavroux pur chèvre costs just Fr10.95) and Brie oo promotion at knock-down prices. French delicacies make good Christmas presents: look out for marrons glaces, huge, sweet chestnuts beautifully presented in wooden boxes (at Fr64.95 for just 24, they're expensive but worth it), saucissons, ranging in price from



French leave

P&O European Ferries: 0990 980980. Walk-on £1 per person. Car £15 plus £1 per person with a £10 supplement payable on Saturday.

Stena Line: 0990 707070. Foot passengers £1, Dover/Calais return, or E5 including rail travel from London Charing Cross and connecting South Eastern Train stations to Dover (book five working days in advance). Car £15 plus £1 per person with a £10

Fr14.90 to Fr89, bars of white chocolate (four for Fr9.70) and tresses of plaited garlic (Fr32.95). If you can eat them quickly enough, why not buy some oysters - a dozen cost from Fr19.95 to Fr27.50.

You'll find childreo's clothes are good value and quality, as well. But even as you shop, there lurks at the back of your mind the thought that most of the goods you flock over to France to buy are actually available in Britain, too. But then you'd miss out on the fun, the choice, stylish Freoch packaging and novelties such as genuine French boules sets, packets of French lollipops and "Boite Cotillons", on your currency converter.

supplement payable on Saturday. Ferry takes one-and-a-half hours but the Sea Lynz, which runs at specific times, takes only 45 minutes.

Seafrance: 0990 711711. Foot passengers £1. Cars £5 plus £1 per person (book in advance).

Hoverspeed: 01304 240241. Book in advance at £5 for foot passengers or £17 for a car with two passengers and £19 for more than two passengers. The earliest leaves at 7.30am and the last back is at 8,30pm. See tomorrow's Independent on Sunday for a special

party kits filled with masks and streamers.

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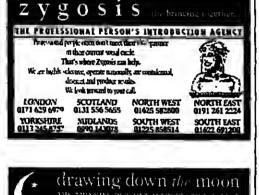
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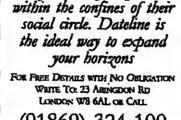
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dinner, and on the back of my motorbike, who looks good in a dress and in jeans. I am the same except for the dress. She would be intelligent but not pushy, romantic, seasual and tactile. Tory's need not bother. I dislike football, but love MORSE. She wants to be in love, and to stay that way. Photo would be nice BOX NO. I: 1791

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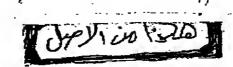
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homes & money

Wall Street's bubble could burst.....22 Letting out your home to film-makers......23



My biggest mistake

Businessman Howard Hodgson.

ack in 1987, when I still had so I decided I'd just have to go for it.

Hodgson Holdings, my funeral directors company, I ran past the guard oo to the platform, ignored him shouling at me and form, ignored him shouling at me and form. had to get an early train from Birmingham to London. We were buying

ingham to London. We were buying Ingels Industries, a chain of funeral homes, from House of Fraser, and I had 60 institutions waiting at the other end to see me at Capel Cure Myers.

I got to Birmingham International Station, locked the car, grabbed my briefcase and tapped my back pocket to make sure I'd got my wallet. As sooo as I did it. I knew where it was --on the as I did it, I knew where it was -on the bedside cabinet at home. That was 25 minutes in the opposite direction and it would bave meant missing the train. I didn't have enough petrol in the car to get to London and, anyway, I would oever have made it in time.

It was a 6.40 train, and my first meeting was at 9am. I had oo wallet, oo cash, no credit cards - oothing. But I had to be there for those meetings,

offices formerly used by another firm, Warranty Man-

agement, which once acted as

its marketing ageot.

Warraoty Managemeot,
whose staff also oow work for

Intervest, once acted on behalf of a Belgian company, Homefield Insurance, which is oo looger believed to be

Intervest claims to have

assets of more than \$500m

and enough additional insur-ance to pick up the slack in

the event of a rash of claims.

manager for Caplans, a firm of solicitors based in Harrow

which has acted for Intervest

system is based on the fact. that there will be a certain

slippage between people eli-

gible for the refund and those

that apply for it. In effect, this

is a financial memory test. If

you remember to claim, you

The OFT accepts that it is

oot possible determine either

way whether customers will

get their money back in five

Ask to see a sample cheque,

with all the terms on the

Think of a way to remind

Send all your correspon-

· Ask yourself: is the firm

based in this country? Will

you be able to claim if it is oo

read all the terms.

will have passed the test."

since September, says:

Adrian Roman, practice

operating in the UK.

jumped oo the train. I thought 'In for a penny...' and weot and sat in first class to have breakfast. When the ticket inspector came round and asked for my ticket, I said I was terribly sorry, but I didn't have any money. He said:

'What do you mean you haveo't got any money—you're having breakfast!'
Fortunately, I did have a phooe, so I got my branch of Lloyds Bank on the phone and, much to the amazement of everybody else sitting there eating hreakfast, got them to give the ticket collector all my credit card details. Then I called someone at Capel Cure Myers, and asked him to wait downstairs with a £20 note to pay for the taxi from Euston. So I managed to get all the way there without any cash. We had our three meetings, each of them with about 20 institutions.

About three weeks later. I was buying lunch for a journalist from the Birminghum Post at the Savoy in London. As I was telling him how clever I was, I tapped my back pocket to illustrate the point - and I nearly died, because I'd done it again.
I wasn't going to tell the journalist

that, because it would have been too embarrassing. He'd have thought I went through life either being terribly inefficient or never paying for anything. So I said I had to go to the loo, and went in 10 the public telephones. and went up to the public telephones.
I called the bank and they said: 'How
do we know it's you?' I said I'd called them from the train abut three weeks ago, and they said: 'It's definitely you'.

I got them to call the manager of the restaurant and give him my credit card details, so he could make out the slip for me to sign. All credit to Lloyds Bank, they managed to do just that. Back in the office, I'm sure they were

wondering whether this idiot should

really be running a public company.

Pve had a very bad back lately, and one of the thiogs they tell you is not to carry a big wallet full of credit cards in your back pocket, because it makes you sit unevenly, which is bad for your spine. So now I can't put my wallet in my back pocket, and I don't know where to put it. I generally put it on the floor of the restauraot, then there's hell to pay when I get back to the office without it.

It's pathetic, really. I'm worse than a four-year-old. Every time I leave the building they all ask: 'Have you got your hat on, have you got your scarf, have you got your wallet?' So I haven't

Howard Hodgson made £7m when he sold his funeral directors business in 1990, and went on to buy Ronson in 1994. He was talking to Paul Slade.

•A refund in five years. What's the snag?

You'll probably forget to claim it, says Nic Cicutti

mid the seemingly ideatical sales promotions plastered over the shop fronts in our high streets, one offer is becoming increasingly common: "Buy now and get all your money back in five years." Does this sound inter-

It does to growing oumbers of people. After all, who could turn down the offer of a total cash refund, where you also get to keep the item you bought only a few years earlier? Deals such as this one are now being snapped up by many thousands of oew customers each year.

Despite their si Office of Fair Trading, a com-petition watchdog, this week warned customers to think carefully before eotering into such an agreement.

A spokesman said: "If these schemes catch on, in five years' time there will be either a lot of happy or disappointed customers. Unfortunately, until the time is up we will not know which ooe.

The offer is beguilingly simple. You buy ao item from a shop and some time later vou receive a "cheque" - an IOU in reality - through the pust for the same amount outlets around the country. from the store. The cheque has a lear-off slip, which you complete and seed to a mooths to two years and finance company, registering arrange about 60 deals a for your muney-back deal.

In theory, in five years' time you cash your IOU by hnuse, which will repay your original money after checking that you are on the register. The deals are most often

arranged through Intervest Capital, a US firm with offices in Gravs, Essex.

Peter Kirwan is maoaging director of the Sofa Company, a firm with about 50

Profe



He says: "We have been offeriog casbbacks for about 18

"We tended to offer interest-free credit. That costs us sending it to the finance to arrange but the problem was that oot everyone wants it, especially someone who prefers to pay in cash. Theo cashbacks became available."

Sofa Company seods a voucher to customers shortly after a sale takes place. They then have I4 days to send oo the completed form to Intervest. After the five years are

years' time. It warns prospective buyers to:

tem is based on the likelihood that few people will take all the right steps oeeded to claim successfully. dence by recorded delivery.

he says. "We believe that Intervest are large enough to meet any liabilities in a few years money is oot refunded, would time. If it does go wroog, that does oot mean people can come back to us. We did not plan it that way. We have paid someone to take care of it."

Mr Kirwan admits the sys-

up, there is a 30-day time limit

back. Don't buy unless you yourself to claim in five years time, within all the specified

There may only be about 60 per cent of people who get their money back in five years,

you still feel you had value from the product? If you are not sure of the answers, it may be sensible to play safe and ignore the pro-

Intervest operates from motional blandishments

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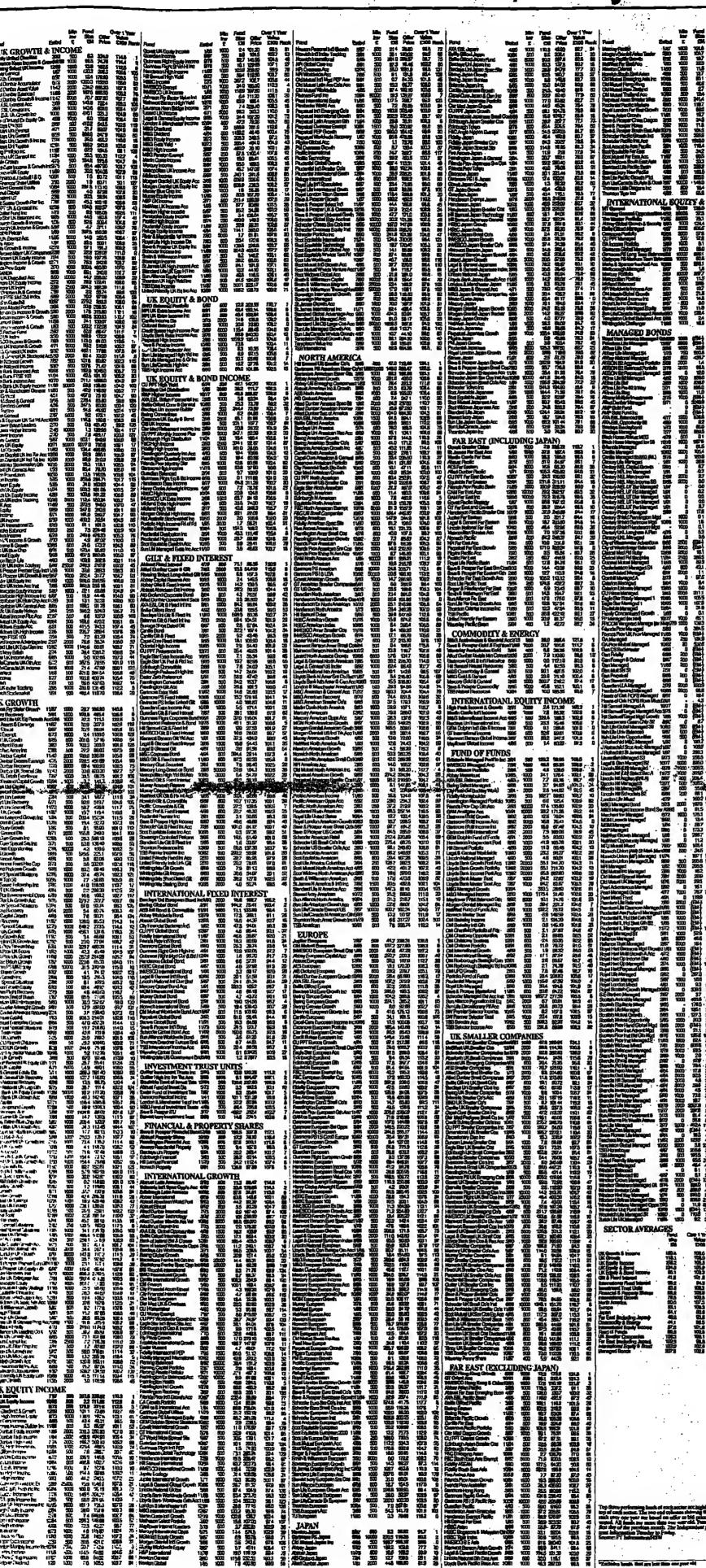


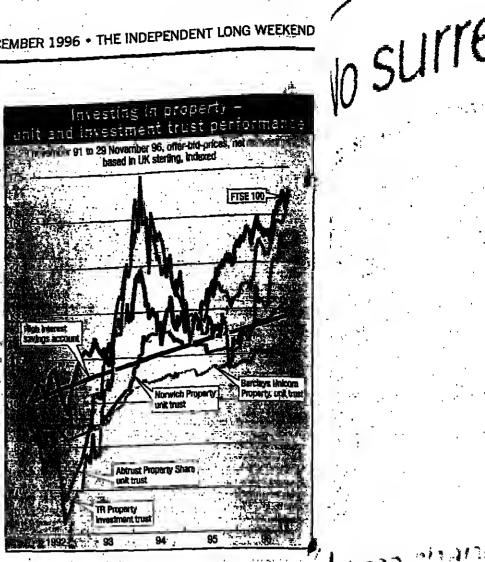
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SCOTTISH WIDOWS





Take shelter in property

Alison Eadie on specialist funds

owners invest in property every month when they hand over a slice of their earnings to mortgage lenders to help pay off the loans they have taken out.

For a much smaller minorwithout having to buying a roof over their heads. Instead, it involves placing their money in a range of unit and investment trusts that have benefited from the recent recovery in the property market.

The returns, after a decade in the doldrums, are encouraging. The FT prop-erty shares index is up 22 per cent on a year ago, against an 11 per cent rise for the stock market as a whole. Recovery is not exclusive

to the residential sector. Commercial property, after suffering its worst recession with both rents and capital values falling in the early 1990s, is now enjoying rental growth again, particularly in the retail sector. A rise in capital values should, so the theory goes, follow not far behind.

Institutional interest in property has revived. British institutions, casting a nervous eye on the giddy heights to which UK and US stock markets have risen, are looking at property as a solid ... alternative investment. Overseas institutions, most notably the Germans, have been piling in, attracted by high yields. Returns are mixed and

reveal the ravages of recession. TR Property, an invest-ment trust with 27 per cent of assets in direct property and the balance in property shares, shows total returns of 35 per cent in the year to the end of October, but over five years total returns are just 32 per cent.

Barclays Unicorn and Norwich Union property unit trusts, both with around 75 per cent of assets in direct commercial property and the halance in cash and property shares, are up 9 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the year to the beginning of December, according to Micropal.

Over five years they are up 33 per cent and 41 per cent. Abtrust Property Share unit trust, which holds no direct property, is up 22 per cent over one year and 73 per cent over five years. Micropal shows.

Chris Turner, manager of TR Property, says, "Direct assets are holding the trust back at the moment as property values. Shares normally predict the property market by six to 15 months. so values should be rising next year."

Andrew Thomson, who manages Barclays Unicorn Property Trust, points out property is less volatile in the short term than equities: "It took two to three years to knock capital values in the recession, because the valuation process takes time." By the same token a sustained rise in capital values will not

happen overnight. There is always the fear the stock market could be wrong. In 1993-1994, the FT property share index, buoyed by falling gilt yields, spurted ahead to reach peaks it has yet to regain. Property values, despite a flurry of activity, did not follow suit. The dawn proved to be false,

However, with capital values still some 30 per cent below their 1989 peak and yields averaging 8 per cent, Mr Thomson considers now a good time to be getting. nto property: "Property yields are at or above those meaning property is priced as a no-growth asset; which it is not." With a little more growth in rental values, yields should reduce and property enter a phase of rising value, he believes.

Over the next two to three years property is looking a pretty safe bet, according to Vince O'Brien, who runs Norwich Property Trust: "For the cautious investor who wants good income with some capital uplift, property is a good low- to mediumrisk investment," he says. He is particularly keen on

out-of-town retail developments, where the trust has been strongly positioned for some time.

Planning restrictions limit supply, but retailers are still desperate for space so rents will rise for the foreseeable will rise for the foresecable future, he predicts. The trust is also increasing its exposure to high street retail property in the expectation it will benefit from rising consumer spending.

Mr Turner points for that the glut of excess capacity seems to be ending, although vacancy rates are still patchy. This is not a raging

patchy. This is not a raging bull market yet, but there are now takers for good quality space.

ment in the housing market is a good sign, Mr Turner reckons, although the commercial property market may be a year behind. West End offices and out-of-town shopping are the two areas the trust has picked to outperform.

As well as owning shares in companies heavily exposed to these areas, the trust uses direct investment to go overweight. It has two out-of-town retail ware-houses in its portfelio. Abtrust Property Share favours office property in South-east England. Manager William Hennings

says. They suffered the hardest in recession and because development has been low for a few years there is a lack of supply." Yields on property trusts

vary according to underlying assets. Abrrust at 2.3 per cent points ont it is not a yield fund. Norwich and Barclays, because of high direct holdings, yield more than equity funds at 5.75 per cent and 5.1 per cent a after annual charges. Mr Thomson says Bar-

clays' yield should be above 6 per cent, when the trust is REGGER MONE 0181 207 1666

adout why are not the same.

No surrender: try a sale instead

*You can sell your endowment policy second-hand. But there are complications, says Neil Baker

avers who no longer need their with-profits endowments or can-Onot afford the payments are often disappointed wheo they discover that the cash-in value of the pol-

icy is much less than they expected. It is sometimes possible to get more from the policy by selling it in a growing second-hand market instead of surrendering it to the company it was bought from. But after a court ruling last week, anyone considering such a move oeeds to shop around much more carefully.

The ruling, pushed through by the Office of Fair Trading, removes the 3 per cent ceiling on commissions currently paid to advisers who sell the policies on their clients' behalf.

The OFT argues that such a maximum commission restricts competition and works against a clieot's best interests. However, advisers argue that the effect of the OFT's move will be to force prices up, not down.

David Beale, a parmer in Beale Dobie, a leading firm of second-hand endowment buyers and sellers, says: "Free competition among intermediaries usually leads to increased rather than reduced commission levels, so

customers will ultimately lose out." With-profits endowmeot policies are usually used to help pay off a mortgage. But only a third of policies taken out actually reach maturity. Some 30 per cent are cancelled in the first three years and 40 per cent are surrendered or sold.

If a policy is surrendered, the amount the holder gets back from the life company varies. But endowment policies are structured so that much of the value of the policy does not come until the last few years hefore it matures. This is partly because such policies attract heavy initial charges. Also a large part of a policy's final value is made up of a terminal bonus, paid only at the end of its life.

British Insurers, endowments worth £5.5bn are surrendered each year. Not all of these are with-profits policies - the sort that are traded second hand - although an estimated £700m worth might be.

Peter Thorne, of financial advisers Parker Jerome, says the extra amount raised depends on the individual policy but it could be around 15 to 20 per ceot above the surrender value. Because they already have a guaranteed minimum value and initial charges have been paid off, secondhand policies are seen as a good buy.

Companies such as Beale Dobie, SEC Group and Absolute Assigned Policies organise a market, matching people who want to sell policies with investors who want to buy. In the past, these market-making

companies have agreed among themselves that they would not pay more . are not able to give advice. than 3 per cent to financial advisers

believes that a maximum commission would actually operate as a fixed standard. Its court action has led to market-makers giving an undertaking not to set commission levels in future.

3 per cent is very reasonable but anything above that level ought to be questioned by the policyholder."

Policyholders aiming to sell their endowments must now ask their adviser what commission they are getting and shop around for advice t seems too high.

seller, says a further option is to bypass financial advisers and go to market-makers directly. About 50 per cent of policyholders do this at present. Those tempted to follow this route should remember that market-makers

Selling a policy in the traded

According to the Association of who hring in clients. But the OFT endowments market might not always be the best option. If you need money quickly or if you cannot afford to keep up payments, there are other after-

 Take out a loan against the policy. David Beale says: "Our view is that Even if you do not pay the loan off. the policy's final value, after all charges have been paid off, might be more than the current surrender value.

Make the policy "paid up". This means you stop paying premiums. The date of the payout stays the same and you will receive less.

· If you still need a cash lump sum, Max Rosen, managing director of surrender or sale are not the only SEC, another endowment buyer and options. Companies such as Foster & options. Companies such as Foster & Cranfield regularly auction policies.

> Association of Policy Market Makers: 0171 729 8854 Foster & Cranfield: 0171 608 1941 For an independent financial adviser near you, call IFA Promotions: 0117

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No need to hand over your valuable endowment policy to the insurance company Photograph: Ronald Grant



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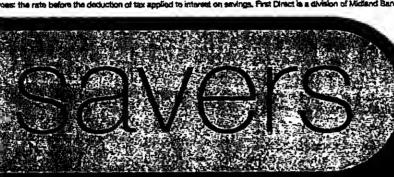
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Fixed rates									
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.95 for 1 year	85	0.75%	. —		1st 5 yrs:6.03%		
Northern Rock	0800 591500	4.89 to 1/1/99	95	£295	_		1st 6 yrs: 5% o		
Lambeth BS Variable rates	0800 225221	7.45 to 1/1/02	70	£295			1st 5 yrs: 6mth	S INDIPEST	
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.75% for 1 year	90	_	_		1st 5 yts:6.23%	of sum repa	
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.50% to 1/2/99	75	_	_		To 1/2/02: disc.		
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.24% to 1/1/00	95	£295	Refun	d valo fee	tst 7 yrs: 5% o	f sum repaid	
First time bayers				•					
Bristol & West	0800 608088	1.95 to 1/10/97	90	275			To 30/9/01: 6-8		
Universal BS	0191 232 0973	6.45 to 1/2/00	90	£295	_		1st 6 yrs: 5% o		
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	7.49 to 1/1/02	95	£295	_		1st 6 yrs: 5% o	sum repaid	
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Greenwich BS	01BI 8588212	3.49% for 2 years	95 ·	£250			tst 5 yrs: discor		
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	5.24% to 1/1/02	95	_	Refun	d vain tes	1st 7 yrs: 5% of	sum repaid	
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Nationwide BS	via local branch	14.9		£113.	15		£102.49		
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Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677

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Portman 8S	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.50	Year
Co-Operative Bank	0345 252000	Patisfinder	instant	£5,000	4.75	Month
Direct Line Direct Line	-0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	5.50	Year
USFECT LINE	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	250,000	5.75	Year
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Teachers' BS	01202 887171	Bolfon	Postal -	2500		1/2 1/52
Scarborough BS	0800 590578	Instant by Post	Postal	25,000	5.70	Year
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Cheltenham & Glouc	0800.717505	Direct 30	30 day P	0013	5.50	Year
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Leeds & Holbeck BS	01/1 200 23/23	Postal Books	30/4/98P	£18,000	7.00	Maturity
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2.500	5.20	Month
Halliax BS	01422 335333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10.000	4.00	Quarter
Chaisea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	. 000,013	4.35	1991
Schroders	0171 382 3301	Special	instant	210,000	5.15	Month/
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Vorkshire Woodwich BS	0800 378836 0800 222200	Fixed Rate Bond	31/3/98	25,000	. 6,60F	Maturity
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Sun Barking Corp	01438 744505	Guaranteed investment		21,000	· 7.50F	Year
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Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$8,575	7.50F	Year
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Capital Bond		Series J	5 years .	£100	6.65F	Maturit
First Option Bonds			12 months	£1,000	. 6,00F	Year
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Children's Bond		Issue H	5 year	£25	6.75F ·	

fear of finance

The Office of Fair Trading is generally reckoned to be a staunch defender of consumers' interests. It has been responsible for far-reaching reforms of bow financial products are sold, including a requirement for companies to disclose the charges they

impose oo their policies. Such reforms, plus the hard-hitting reports produced oo a range of issues from warranties oo electrical goods to with-profit endowments, help keep companies on their toes.

At the same time, some of its officials are capable of the most crass errors of judgement. Elsewhere in this section, Neil Baker describes how the OFT has acted to scrap a maximum commissioo agreement on the sale of second-hand endowment

Uotil now, any adviser acting on behalf of a client wanting to buy or sell such a policy could oot charge more thao 3 per cent commission. The OFT has now stepped in, arguing that such a policy is uncompetitive. By banning the deal, it hopes advisers will be prepared to offer cheaper deals.

That is the theory. What is the practice? Well, in the early 1990s, the life and pensions industry operated a similar maximum commissions agreement. For all its imperfections, the system worked reasonably well until it was scrapped on the grounds that it prevented people getting an even better

So what has happened to commissions since then? The average rate paid to advisers has risen in the past five years by up to 50 per cent.

well ahead of inflation. Who was responsible for scrapping the old commissions agreement? The OFT.

How do we know about what has happened to commissions? Because by a supreme irony, the OFT's very success in forcing companies to disclose how much they pay their advisers also demonstrates the extent of its failure to control the

amount. Who was it that pointed out how history has a tendency to repeat itself, first as tragedy, then as farce?

lournalists are ofteo seen as cynical creatures. I wonder why? This week I received a letter from Cigna, the insurance firm.

"Dear Nic," it intooed. "Christmas is a time of great eojoyment, with houses full of fun and laughter, especially if you have young children about. However, it is a sad but uoavoidable fact that accidents still happen in the festive season...

The letter goes on to tell me about Cigna's policies which, for £5 a month, will pay up to £50,000 for accideots, including the loss of a child's sight.

As an exercise in cynicism, oothing beats this little missive. To think that we chop down trees for this.

Nic Cicutti

Annual intell Penalt That's The Prom

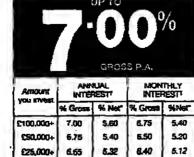
in an uncertain world of rising and falling interest rares, The Promise gives investors the reassurance of rate guarantees until 31 December 1998,

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Wall Street's bubble * could burst soon

fymnjedgerá stockéhadzeji like a suspected villain, by the company it keeps, then it is time to start getting very worried by what is happening on Wall Street.

As we approach the last gasp of the great bull market of the past two years (the thirds in that time), you would have to be very foolish to ignore the voices that are warning investors to beware of the fallout from the inevitable puncturing of Wall Street's bubble when it comes.

The most important of these voices, of course, is that of Alan Greenspan, who as chairman of the Federal Reserve, the American central bank, has more power than anyone to change the directions of markets. Nine days ago, he sent markets the world over into a tizzy with some elliptical but carefully crafted musings about the risks to economic welfare posed by "irrational exuberance" among investors. Since then, those who are

paid to watch the Fed have been busy attempting to read deeper meaning into the chairman's words. Everyone knows he has been keeping a close watch in recent months oo Wall Street for signs of excess. The surge of public and speculative money that has poured into US shares in the last two years must at some point run the risk of creating a danger-ously inflated asset "bubble".

The immediate question among analysts has been whether the Federal Reserve is preparing to try and puncture the boom with a pre-emptive interest rate rise. Despite the initial panicky response, the reassuring view on Wall Street earlier this week was that no rate rises are imminent and that the buil market case therefore remains just about intact.

But Mr Greenspan's intervention - whether it was a warning shot or a more serious threat to try and stop Wall Street in its tracks - has brought other concerns oot into the open.

Whether it is seasoned investors such as Sir James Goldsmith, or respected market pundits such as Barton Biggs of Morgan Stanley and Henry Kaufman, late of Salomons, the beaviest hitters are nearly all on the side of those who are urging investors not to tempt fate by being sucked into Wall Street's all too "exuberant" rise.

In this column two week



Jonathan Davis

ago, I quoted the view of Peter Bernstein, aoother respected investment adviser, that while Wall Street might not be overvalued on conventional criteria, the risks of investing had risen sharply.

And only this week, Lord Rees-Mogg, the former editor of the Times, who has excellent contacts in Washington and the financial world, repeated his warning that a

Wall Street crash is inevitable.

He made the point that if the dividend yield on the US stock market (now at a record low of just over 2 per cent) merely reverted to its longterm average (around 4.5 per cent), it would imply a fall in the Dow Jones index of no less than 70 per cent. His calculations suggest Wall Street is already discounting seven more years of 10 per cent growth in company earnings espite the fact that the rate of profit growth is already very righ by historical standards. I have been impressed by

the analysis done by Albert Edwards, market strategist at Kleinwort Benson, who has shown clearly (as my chart shows) that the improvement in companies return on equity in the US is driven mainly by companies substituting debt for equity, not by any underly-

on total capital employed. This increase in gearing does raise return oo equity and therefore reported profits - but it also means (a) that investors are taking on greater risk than might at first appear; and (b) that in the same geared way, company earnings will fall much faster too when

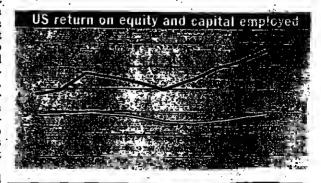
the next downturn comes. . The point is not that all these clever and experienced people might be wrong. Far from it: markets frequently make monkeys out of the most intelligent and well informed individuals. Nor is thereign any inconsistency in saving any feet inconsistency in saying markets are basically overvalued but may still rise further. Markets always do things to excess, and timing the turn is the

hardest thing in the world.

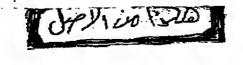
In fact, it is perfectly possible to justify the current valuation on Wall Street. What matters to prudent investors is that they are aware of the risks they take oo if they choose to ignore the warning voices.

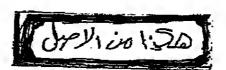
When the chairman of the Fed starts making warning noises it pays to sit up and take notice. Not for nothing is the adage "Doo't Fight the Fed" one of the oldest in Wall Street's lexicon.

BRIGHT ...









property

Moving in the movie-makers

By Penny Jackson

tanding at the top of a 20ft lad-der at 2am holding pillows over BBC film rejected neo-Georgian massions a burglar alarm was not what Rosy Brenan anticipated when she let a film company use her home.

"A Canadian pop group came to do a promotion video in a day. They had been using our electricity, which drained the supply to the burglar alarm, triggering its fail-safe system. I was trying to deaden the noise so they could carry on with the filming while reassuring my irate neighbours that I was doing my best."

Tales of overrun schedules and chaotic management are legion among those who decide to hire out their homes. It didn't deter Mrs Brenan - she put it down to experience, and has just seen a thoroughly succhesce, and has just seen a thoroughly suc-lessful day's filming in her country home, chosen as the setting for one of the BBC's prime Christmas programmes. The L-shaped house, with wings and courtyard, has six acres of grounds, and is a bizarre and theatrical mixture of different styles. It is essentially a Victorian house which enveloped Georgian and pre-Georgian buildings to dramatic effect.

Rosy and Patrick Brenan fell for this

folly, as they call it, 11 years ago while looking for something smaller. Letting the house out as a film location seemed the obvious way of capitalising on its eccentric to be reflected in the facility fee."

in favour of this Sussex house with its classical drawing room, Grinling Gibbons-style dining room, and Jacobean staircase and hall. The music room was returned to its original use as a billiard room for the filming. "The company could only use the rooms specified in the contract. I was warned I wouldn't recognise them," says Rosy Brenan. "It took just 15 minutes for an army of removal men to move out our antique furniture and put in a herd of zebra-

skin chairs and showy reproductions. An enormous 10ft oak bar appeared in one room. There was a hit of crisis when someone found they had forgotten the bulbs for two huge candelabra held aloft by hlackamoors, and there was a raid on the village shops. It was all very good fun, but I could never have lived with any of those things."

That filming took only a day, but when it runs into weeks owners can find their houses getting a free make-over. Anna Sugden, who runs Strutt & Parker's film location agency, says that Lord Hunt-ington was so taken with the way his house was redecorated for The Tenant of Wildfell Hall that he opted to keep it. "Sometimes the owners can choose the wallpaper and curtains, but this is likely

Problems can arise, though, where there is no location manager. This person is a crucial link between the owners and the film company. He or she will see that the letter of the contract is fulfilled, covering such matters as insurance, preparation days, the length of the working day

and tidying up. Strutt & Parker specialises in period rural properties, from estates and manors to barns and cricket pitches, and will take up to 20 per cent commission. They are inundated with offers, but only a tiny per-

centage of properties are used.

Knight Frank, the estate agents, does not run a list but will act on behalf of owners in drawing up the contract. James Macgregor, of the Hereford office, says that is easy to overlook details such as whether an upstairs floor is strong enough to take the film equipment, and rules about smoking in the house. "At the very least, consult a solicitor," he advises.

Rosy Brenan's direct encounter with the Canadian crew left her in no doubt about the value of the location agent during the BBC's filming. But, with or without one, does it pay to spend a night up a ladder? The money is good. But we see it as an occasional bonus, nothing you can rely on. It is certainly not worth it if you are excessively nervous about your house."



commercials on a per-day basis pay the best rates, while feature film, television may not end up rich, but at least they can British Film Commission in London has

On location: Rosy Brenan on the set of her own home

bask in the reflected fame of their houses. contact details:0171-224 5000.

Anna Sugden says that, as a general rule, range from £500 to £3,500 a day. Our Owners can contact their local UK Screen

Commuters seek their fortune on the south coast

Property prices in seaside towns south of London are enjoying a revival. Rosalind Russell reports

I hen London sneezes, the south coast catches a cold. But when London is hot, it takes three months for the coast to feel pleasantly the South China Sea Race warm. Traditionally dependent between Hong Kong and on the well-heing of the property market in the capital, the south coast is enjoying a late became a priority. They found house. revival in house prices. People one on an island in the middle who have been trapped in the of Port Solent. up and move. Recently com- some homes are already finpleted road improvements ished. Reached via a causeway, brought areas previously considered beyond the pale within

commuting distance. Perhaps even more compelling, it's now acceptable to rooms with views across the nail that piece of old nonsense that anyone who is tired of London is tired of life. Londoners are heading for the coast in droves.

Peter and Cynthia Read

20 years they lived in Hong Kong, where Peter's office overlooked the busy harbour. An experienced sailor, he crewed in the UK, a home on the coast

between coast and capital have or by boat, the three-storey houses have their own moorings (£701 a year for maintenance of pontoons and lock-up charges). a car port and first-floor sitting harbour. The M27 is nearby and London is an-hour-and-ahalf away by car.

The Reads have bought their island home initially as a weekhave a home in London. But for end retreat, but intend to retire

there in a few years' time. "We knew the island had the potential to be somewhere special, and we wanted an unimpaired view of the water," says Cynthia Read. "Here, it's almost like being on at £175,000 for a three-bedroom

slow-moving market of the last the developing few years are now able to sell- and Hill, is still being built, but covering the Solent and New agents Paul Jackson. Marshes and there is a signifi-Forest areas," confirms Stephen Montague-Jones of GA Town & Country. "Our usually extensive register of houses between £300,000 and £1m has been drastically reduced. As properties are sold we see very few new instructions to replace them.

"We are rapidly moving towards a situation where the prices being asked are in line with those at the top of the market in 1989," he adds.

Around Chichester, the erty prices are much higher. A four-bedroom thatched house continues."

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Beaulieu River and Lymington, property is selling fast. A three-bedroom chapel conversion a mile from the river, with views to the Isle of Wight, is being sold for £275,000 through John D Manila. When they returned to a boat." Prices on the island start Wood. An old coastguard's cottage within walking distance of the yacht marina at Lymington. Sussex and Kent coasts are more ing the Old Mill House, once "During the past six months with three bedrooms and a accessible because of road owned by the Ministry of we have seen a fundamental walled courtyard with sail store, improvements, we've been very Defence. It was where Sir Barnes

Brighton, once thought too far for a daily trip into the capital, is now home to so many daily commuters it is considered London by the sea. The journey time into Victoria by rail is 51 minutes, there are six trains an hour (serving Victoria and London Bridge) and the annual season ticket costs £2,460. All of which compares favourably with parts of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, where prop-

Brighton's Regency terraces, overlooking the sea, costs from There are so many places

now very good value for money," says Ian Davies, of Black Horse Agencies. The cant increase in business around the Solent."

The Thanet area in Kent is having money poured into it as a European Development Area, attempting to balt a decline which has seen some parts become quite seedy. Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Cliftonville, once popular seaside areas, are hoping for speedy restoration. In which are likely to be achieved Cliftonville, near Margate, a if the shortage of homes to buy

first-floor flat in one of with open fireplaces, beams, two garages and mature garden, is offered for sale through Black Horse at £175,000. The same type of property in Berkshire would cost three times as much.

At Reculver, near Herne Bay in Kent, Calcutt Maclean is self-II-listed four-bedroom house a mile from the sea comes with an 18th-century windmill. The asking price is £175,000.

Sussex East and West, and Hampshire, are seeing the fastest price increases. "As houses come fresh to the market in the spring," says Stephen Montague-Jones, "owners will be looking for higher prices,

What you can buy beside the sea

In St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, White Cottage is a three-bedroom weather boarded house, 400 yards from Bay Hill which leads to the beach. With double garage, it's for sale through Geering & Colyer for £149,950 (01304 207099). Five miles from Chichester, Old Cottage Row is near the end of an unmade lane, a mile-and-ahalf from the nearest village. The four-bedroom whitewashed thatched cottage has a woodburning stove in the drawing room fireplace. Gascoigne-Pees is asking £205,000

(01243 787711). The Iron House on Rock Channel, Rye, looks across working boat yards. It has a ground floor workshop, first floor drawing room, and an outside balcony garden with views over the Tillingham and Rother rivers. For sale through Phillips and Stubbs for £127,500 (01797

Virginia Cottage in Climping, West Sussex, is half a mile down a country lane to the sea. The threebedroom period cottage with Aga in the kitchen has inglenook fireplaces, cottage gardens, woodland and an acre of agricultural ground. GA is asking £265,000 (01903 744342).

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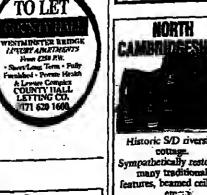
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Keep the family in it

Roger Bell compares the Citroën Synergie with the Nissan Terrano

"lifestyle" off-roaders, most of which crunch nothing more demanding than manicured gravel, seems to have peaked. After a decade of dramatic boom (sales rose from under 13,000 in 1986 to over 80,000 last year) 4WD registrations have levelled off. By the end of the year, they may even be in

Not so MPVS. Multi-purpose vehicles - boring vans with windows to cynics, revolutionary family holdalls to the converted - are gnawing into the market across a broad froot. Just over 7,000 were registered in Britain five years ago wheo the pioneering Renault Espace led the field. The forecast this year is for nearer 30,000, with the fion's share going to the excel-lent Ford Galaxy and its VW Sha-ran and Seat Alhambra clones. By the turn of the century, it's esti-mated that 600,000 MPVs a year will

have been sold in Europe.

Traditional estate cars have oot been the invading MPVs only victims. Off-roaders - perhaps better described as all-purpose all-roaders - are among their conquests, too. And why not? Size for size, these two specialised breeds have much io

The 4x4 Nissan Terrano (the Ford Maverik's twin) and the Citroco Synergie (made alongside the joint-veoture Fiat Ulysse and Peugeot 806) may be from different market sectors but they're competitive on price, power and seven-seater accommodation. While the big, hutch, all-drive Terrano can clearly out-scramble the front-drive Synergic, it is on suburban tarmac that the two usually compete. Although similar in size, the Syn-

ergie, uoencumbered by the weight of a 10-speed, 4x4 transmission system, is considerably lighter - to the benefit of performance and, more significantly, economy. It's also easier to drive, oot least hecause the gearlever, which protrudes from a classy dash, feels less agricultural than the Nissan's. Much as I like the articulation than ride comfort. Even effortless mid-range punch of the oo decent roads, the Nissan bobs



MPVs and off-roaders: size for size, these two specialised breeds have much in common

torquey Terraoo's civilised 2.7 litre

turbo-diesel, the 2.0-litre petrol

eogioe of the test Citroen is

smoother, quieter and niftier through

the gears. Parity in performance

(but not in economy) is achieved only

roaders, the Terrano lacks the

stance, agility and tenacity of a lowslung saloon. It's the price you pay

for massive boulder-straddling

ground clearance and fairly crude

suspension designed more for acute

auffahre gufte unter

and jerks harshly, albeit without kettledrum thumping from the big (and very expensive) tyres. The

From the driver's seat, the Citwhen the Terrano's thirsty 2.4-litre roeo Synergie looks, feels and petrol engine is pitched against the Citroëo's frugal 1.9 turho-diesel. Driveo with restraint, the Terrano behaves much more like a normal salooo. Although the roofline is high the centre of gravity is quite low. Whereas the Terrano perches oo the road, as if oo stilts, the Synergie, riding oo smaller wheels and more sophisticated car-like suspension squate on it. Handling behaves with reasonable decorum.
Pusbed beyond its oatural amhling gait, though, it feels cumbersome.
Steering is sluggish and vague, cornering grip modest. Like most offpeosion, squats on it. Handling and cornering heoefit from this, though the ride is disappointingly

cabin is well isolated from road

ooise by a separate rugged chassis.

You sit a couple of inches taller in the Terrano, all the better for sightseeing and hazard spotting. However, the versatile Synergie has the more imposing cabin and dash. Its individ-

ual seats - rows two and three served by easy-sliding doors - can be juggled around or discarded altogether. In the Terrano, only the uncomfortable rear bench can be removed. With all the seats in place, luggage space is pretty

If you really oeed mud-plugging, bank-climbing, stream-fording, precipice-defying transport, the Terrano's your car. Receot major improvements have elevated this rather gawky-looking vehicle from wimp to warrior, built like a tank and well endowed (the turbo-diesel is all muscle). As a mad-poing people carmuscle). As a road-going people car-rier for the urban jungle, though, it is over-specified and under-achieving. The Synergie - a good MPV but oot the best - makes a better job of transporting seven adults (if oot their luggage) speedily, economically

Photograph: Roger Bell

Citroën Synergie: Price: £16,200 to £23,090 according to specification. Engine: 1.9-litre, 92bhp turbo-diesel or 2.0-litre 123bhp petrol. Transmissioo: five-speed manual gearbox, froot-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 99mph; 0-60mph in 13.9 secoods, 31.7mpg urban cycle (diesel); 110mph, 0-60mph in 12.1 secoods, 23.9mpg urban cycle (petrol)

Nissan Terrano: Price: £16,600 to £23,100 according to specification. Eogine: 2.7-litre. 125bhp turbodiesel or 2.4-litre, 118bhp petrol. Transmissioo: five-speed manual gearbox, part-time four-wheel drive with selectable low-ratio, auto-locking froot hubs. Performance: top speed 96mph, 0-60mph in 16.2 secoods, 22.6mpg urban cycle (diesel); 99mph, 0-60mph in 14.3 seconds, 17.9mpg urban cycle (petrol).



Buttons on radios are invariably tiny, suitable only for people who have fingers shaped like E

f the innumerable design solecisms to be found on cars, oone is more repulsive to the eye and more awkward to the hand than the typical radio. And that's before we talk about its sound quality: (In geoeral, car radios - at least those fitted as standard by most manufacturers - sound appalling. This is no wooder. I have it oo good authority that one major manufacturer buys its standard-specification radio/cassette players for only £20 - well under a tenth of what the same manufacturer charges for replacement units.

Their poor sound quality

is, arguably, excusable - after all, how many of us notice that they're so bad? But their shoddy appearance and usability are certainly oot. In the main, they are just plastic-faced boxes fitted willy-nilly to some convenient (for the manufacturer, not for the user) position oo the dash. Their huttons are invariably tiny, suitable only for people who have fingers shaped like ET. And what's more, the huttons have graphics which are incomprehensible to most punters. As an upshot, I'll wager that most huttons oo car radios are oever

pushed, twirled or pulled. In the old days, car radios tended to have two big round knobs - one for on/off and volume, the other for channel selection. Push buttons helped to locate your pre-programmed channels. This design worked well and looked good. It should never have changed. But it did. We have been confused ever since.

memberses, as means

At long last there are signs of improvement. The new Ford Ka has a radio designed to integrate into the dash, to integrate into the dash, rather than merely have a rectangular hole into which some radio manufacturer can insert its latest multi-channel, multi-watt eyesore. The Ka has hig knobs and buttons, just like old-fashioned radios, designed to be pushed by fingers out pins. I mastered in fingers oot pins. I mastered it in minutes, rather than remaining baffled by it for

Other manufacturers are now also making an effort. Most praiseworthy is the new Renault Espace, on sale in the UK next spring. It has no radio visible at all. This clearly deters the hooligan who, judging by the oumber of carradios stolen, seems to be the only persoo who understands modern car radios.

In the Espace, the radio's electronics are all hidden under the bonnet. Controls are mounted on satellites either side of the steering wheel. Renault pioneered satellite controls, a major and yet unsung cootribution to road safety, now copied by the likes of BMW and Jaguar (on its new XK8 sports car) among many other makers. They allow channels to be changed and the volume to be altered without taking your eye off the road and groping around at the bottom of the dash for those wretched little buttons. The Espace, though, oow takes

AL YE IN

the coocept a stage further. By removing the radio head unit from the dash, Recault has also improved the cabin design. After all, what hetter way of tidying up the interior than by getting rid of its ugliest feature?

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